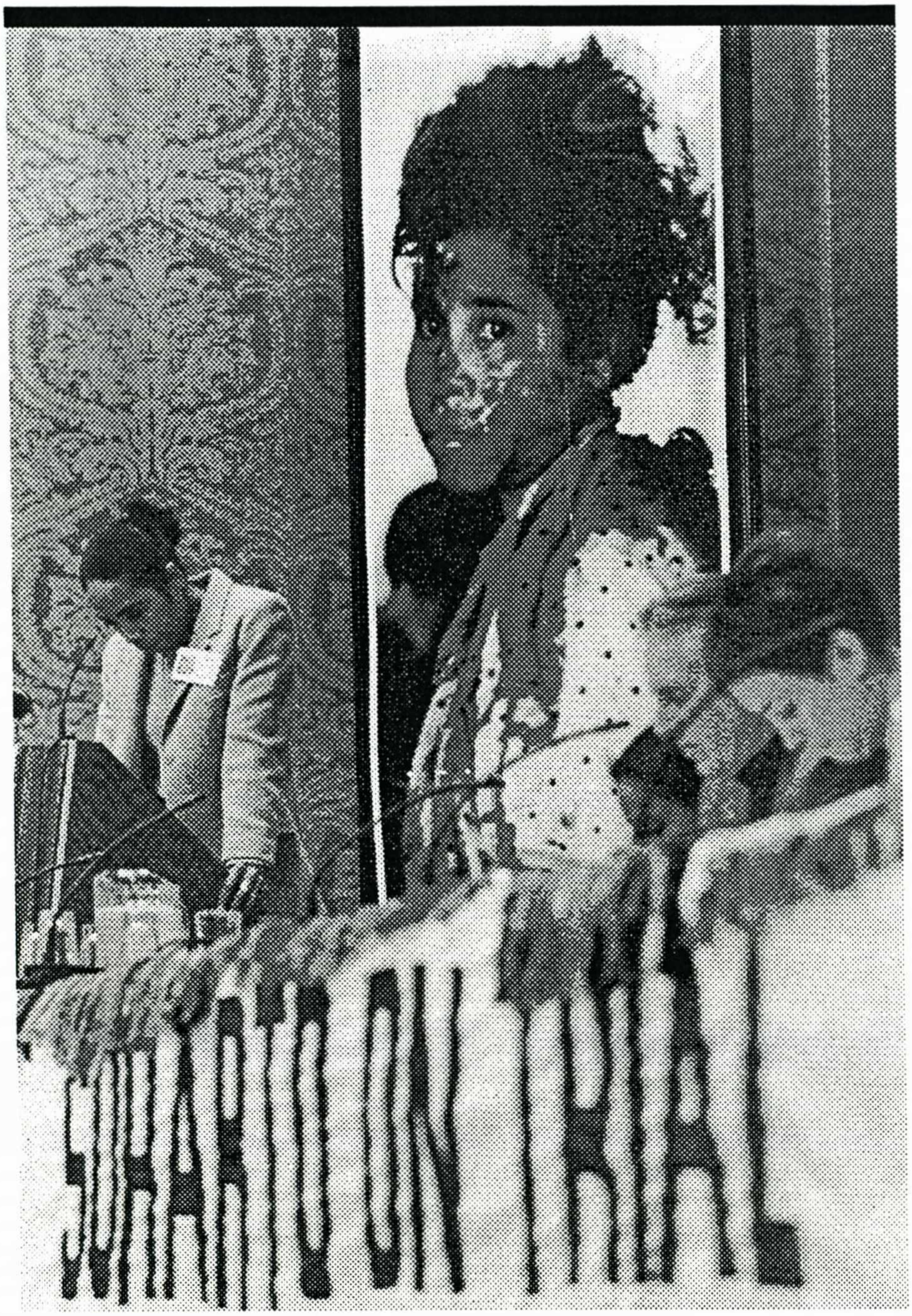
TL 4552



East Timor Alert Network

November 1997 Campaign

FINAL REPORT

Abé
Barreto
Soares

Josefina
Maria das
Dores da
Costa Ribeiro

Aviano
António da
Silva Faria

Ines
Almeida

Roberto
Seixas
Miranda
Jeronimo

João
António
Dias

Tomas
Alfredo
Gandara

HUMAN RIGHTS

TEAM

& SOCIAL JUSTICE

TIMOR

BEFORE TRADE

On November 24, Prime Minister Chrétien will wine and dine Indonesian president, General Suharto, at APEC meetings in Vancouver.

On November 11, another "Team Canada" trade mission heads off seeking profits and freer trade...

But on November 10, "Team Timor" will begin a cross-Canada tour seeking social justice and human rights.

Team Timor is thirteen exiled East Timorese and two exiled Indonesian activists who have witnessed too much suffering to stay silent. They're here to ask the Canadian government to put Suharto on trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

They're here to tell us about genocide in East Timor and mass murder in Indonesia.

And at least one Team Timor member is coming to a city near you: Halifax, St. John's, Montréal, Ottawa, Toronto, Windsor, Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver.

Contact the campaign organizers at (613) 230-4070 or www.etan.ca. Or contact your local ETAN chapter at:

NOVEMBER 1997

Céu Santee
Brites

José
António
Amorim
Dias

Isabel
Antonia da
Costa
Galhos

Alfredo
Rodrigues

Maria
Solana da
Conceição
Soares

Libanio de
Fatima
Soares

George J.
Aditjondro

Contents

Introduction 1
- Foreward/Acknowledgments
- Campaign objectives
- Who is "Team Timor"?

Before our guests arrived 3
- Setting the stage
- Preparing for our guests
- Suharto almost backs out
- Finding in-kind and financial support
- Media and public outreach

November 6th 8
- Axworthy faces tough questions from Timorese

November 7th to 11th 10
- Trial and tour preparation

November 12th 13
- Suharto on trial on Parliament Hill

November 13th 21

Team Timor coast to coast
- Bella, Alfredo and Jusfiq in Ottawa
- Libânio in St. John's
- Tomás in Halifax
- Solana in Montreal
- Roberto in Toronto
- George in Waterloo
- Aviano and Abé in Windsor
- José in Winnipeg
- João in Regina
- Céu and Dolly in Calgary and Edmonton
- George in Victoria

November 15th to 26th 41

Team Timor in Vancouver
- November 15th: Day of protest
- November 17th: Voices from East Timor: Suharto on Trial
- November 18th to 23rd: Team Timor at the Peoples' Summit on APEC
- November 24th to 26th in Vancouver

Commentary 50
- Who's influencing who?

Evaluation 51
- Did we meet our objectives?

Recommendations 55

Campaign materials & news clippings
- Ottawa
- Across Canada
  Vancouver

Team Timor biographies

Cover photo: Suharto on trial on Parliament Hill, November 12, 1997

Foreward/Acknowledgments

In July and August 1997 I travelled with East Timorese activist Bella Galhos to Portugal to participate in the VII Symposia on Timor of Oporto University, and the 4th Course on Indonesia and East Timor.

During the course Professor Antonio Barbedo de Magalhães asked us to come up with a proposal for a campaign which would take advantage of Indonesian President Suharto's pending visit to Canada for APEC meetings.

We outlined a campaign with the help of East Timorese activist Constancio Pinto and ETAN/Vancouver member David Webster, and sought input from other conference participants. The strength of our proposal depended entirely on the ability to secure travel funds for several East Timorese and Indonesian participants – a costly expense ETAN would never be able to afford on its own.

We were surprised and thrilled when Professor Barbedo informed us that the Organizing Committee of the Symposia on Timor, and hence Oporto University, had decided to sponsor the campaign and fully fund travel and expenses for East Timorese and Indonesian activists so they could participate.

Once we returned to Canada, we worked very hard to encourage the participation of other ETAN chapters in the campaign. We sought financial and in-kind support for the campaign from trade unions, social justice organizations and individual supporters. We also sought help from the Timorese diaspora to find participants.

As a result of Professor Barbedo's faith in us; the generosity of Oporto University; tons of support and solidarity from our Canadian allies; the hard work of ETAN volunteers; and most importantly, the outstanding work of our East Timorese and Indonesian guests, ETAN's campaign was a huge success.

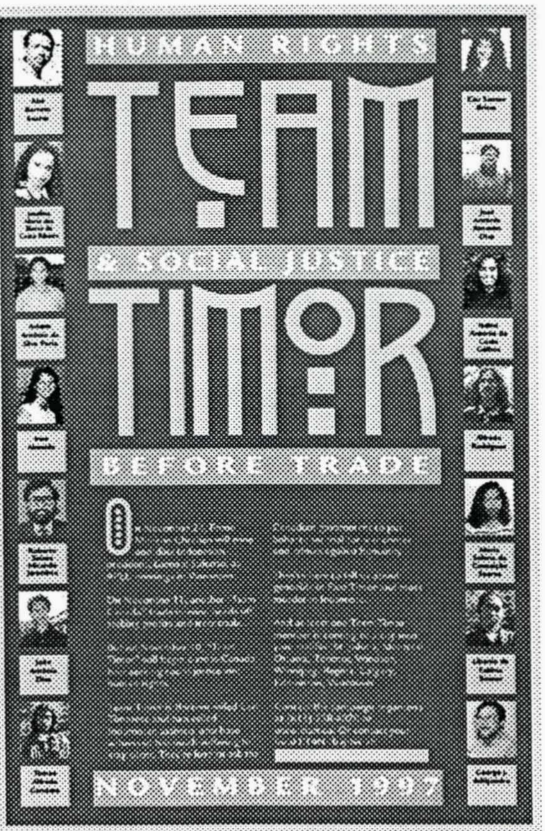
This report attempts to capture the spirit of our campaign, and provides information which I hope will be useful for future campaigns.

Kerry Pither
ETAN/Ottawa, Canada, February 16, 1998

Introduction

Campaign objectives

- This was primarily a media campaign – designed to be difficult for journalists and their editors to ignore.
- We wanted to use Suharto's visit to Canada to raise more awareness about continuing atrocities in East Timor and Indonesia, and about the moral bankruptcy of Canada's relations with the Indonesian government.
- We hoped that by having Canadian journalists hearing first-hand from East Timorese and Indonesian dissidents, we might improve the accuracy and increase the frequency of future reporting on Indonesia and East Timor.
- We also hoped to contribute to the work of other NGOs trying to increase awareness of and opposition to the social and human costs of APEC.
- We wanted to build on the work of solidarity groups around the world who have ensured Suharto meets protests wherever he travels.
- We hoped having East Timorese and Indonesian guests would strengthen ETAN's work, and encourage more people to join this struggle.
- We wanted our East Timorese guests to participate as more than just speakers in this campaign. It was important to us that this experience would enrich their future work.



The Public Service Alliance printed 2,000 of these posters in colour and in French and English. We sent these posters to our chapters across Canada.

Who is "Team Timor?"

The thirteen East Timorese and two Indonesians who participated in this campaign were dubbed "Team Timor." This was a satirical take on "Team Canada," a name given to herds of business leaders and politicians who participate in high profile trade missions to repressive regimes around the world including Indonesia.

The theme of our campaign was: "Team Timor: Human rights and social justice before trade." This underlined our criticism of the Canadian government's insistence that trade and human rights are separate issues, and their contradicting argument that the way to promote human rights and social justice is through trade - through trade we somehow influence Suharto to respect human rights.

All the participants were selected based on recommendations by East Timorese and Indonesian activists and international solidarity groups. We worked especially hard to find East Timorese women to participate.

We were very lucky to find so many willing participants, and even more lucky that their schedules permitted long stays in Canada.

We worked very hard to prepare biographies of all of our guests for the media and the public. These are included in the appendix of this document. Team Timor included:

Living in Canada:

- Bella Galhos
- Abé Barreto Soares

Living in Portugal:

- João António Dias
- Aviano António da Silva Faria
- Maria Solana da Conceição Soares (Solana)
- Tomás Alfredo Gandara
- Alfredo Rodrigues
- Roberto Seixas Miranda Jerónimo
- Libânio de Fátima Soares

Living in the Netherlands:

- Jusfiq Hadjar
- José António Amorim Dias

Living in Australia:

- Ines Almeida
- Céu Brites
- Josefina Maria das Dores da Costa Ribeiro (Dolly)
- George J. Aditjondro

Before our guests arrived

Setting the stage

The stage for this campaign was really set as early as July, 1997, when ETAN chapters across the country began demanding that Suharto not be allowed into the country. "Wanted Suharto" posters went up in many cities on July 17. In Ottawa, ETAN volunteers leafleted on busy downtown streets, and were interviewed on CBC radio along with Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy.

Preparing for our guests

- Bella and Abé worked to translate information about the campaign into Tetum and Indonesian to ensure our guests knew what to expect. Official invitations were written for our guests to use when they were questioned by immigration officials at Canadian airports.

- Bette at Far Horizons Travel handled the unbelievably complicated travel arrangements for our guests to travel to and within Canada. She worked very hard to meet our requests and find the least expensive rates. Our thanks also to Margarida, working in Professor Barbedo's office, for arranging health insurance for our Timorese guests travelling from Portugal.

- We had to act quickly at the end of October to ensure Indonesian professor George Aditjondro could still participate. The Canadian embassy in Australia delayed his travel papers and would have refused him the right to travel to Canada. But we had Canadian Member of Parliament Svend Robinson, Wilfrid Laurier University professor Peter Eglin, and professors at Simon Fraser University write letters on George's behalf. We also called the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, hinting at how newsworthy it would be if George were prevented from entering Canada while Suharto was being welcomed.

We couldn't have done it without João Dias, who spent hours and hours travelling around Lisbon fulfiling our many requests – finding us participants, photographs, passport information, schedule information, biographical information – and also acting as our messenger, passing on information to the six other participants travelling from Lisbon. Thanks are also owed to Carlos de Jesus, in José Ramos Horta's office, who was also a big help – passing on messages and helping us track people down.

- ETAN chapters across the country prepared for their guest speakers' arrival, and sent itineraries to Ottawa for them.

- ETAN in Vancouver and Ottawa worked with the organizers of the Peoples' Summit on APEC to arrange for our guests to attend and speak at the many different issue forums.

- Roger Clark, Distinguished Professor of Law at Rutgers, the State University of Law at Camden, New Jersey, helped us by researching Canadian law and how it pertained to Suharto's pending visit. He was excited to find the following clauses in Canada's criminal code, and most importantly, in the Canadian Immigration Act:

Canadian criminal code: section 7

JURISDICTION: War crimes and crimes against humanity

(3.71) Notwithstanding anything in this Act or any other Act, every person who commits an act or omission outside Canada that constitutes a war crime or a crime against humanity and that, if committed in Canada, would constitute an offense against the laws of Canada shall be deemed to commit that act or omission in Canada at that time if:

(a)that person is a Canadian citizen or a citizen of a country allied with Canada in time of war; or,

(b)at the time of the act or omission, Canada could, in conformity with international law, exercise jurisdiction over the person with respect to the act or omission on the basis of the person's presence in Canada.

Definitions (3.76)

Crime against humanity "crime against humanity" means murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, persecution, or any other inhumane act or omission that is committed against any civilian population or any identifiable group of persons, whether or not it constitutes a contravention of the law in force at the time and in the place of its commission, and that, at that time and in that place, constitutes a contravention of customary international law or conventional international law or is criminal according to the general principles of law recognised by the community of nations.

War crime "war crime" means an act or omission that is committed during an international armed conflict, whether or not it constitutes a contravention of the law in force at the time and in the place of its commission, and that, at that time and in that place, constitutes a contravention of the customary international law or conventional international law applicable in international armed conflicts.

Canada immigration act

Part III exclusion and removal

Inadmissible classes

1. No person shall be granted admission who is a member of any of the following classes:

l) persons who are or were senior members of or senior officials in the service of a government that is or was, in the opinion of the Minister, engaged in terrorism, systematic or gross human rights violations or war crimes or crimes against humanity within the meaning of subsection 7(3.76) of the Criminal Code, except persons who have satisfied the Minister that their admission would not be detrimental to the national interest.

Meaning of "senior members of or senior officials in the service of a government"

(1.1)For the purposes of paragraph (1) (1), "senior members of or senior officials in the service of a government" means persons who, by virtue of the position they hold or have held, are or were able to exert a significant influence on the exercise of government power and, without limiting its generality, includes:

(a) heads of state or government;

(b) members of the cabinet or governing council;

(c) senior advisors to persons described in paragraph (a) or (b);

(d) senior members of the public service;

(e) senior members of the military and of the intelligence and internal security apparatus;

(f) ambassadors and senior diplomatic officials; and

(g) members of the judiciary

Suharto almost backs out of Canadian visit

In September, Indonesian foreign minister Ali Alatas hinted that President Suharto might not to come to Canada for APEC because of a "vocal network of activists who want an independent East Timor," which might subject him to such "indignities" as protests over East Timor (*Toronto Star*, September 11, 1997). Prime Minister Jean Chrétien quickly sent a special envoy to Jakarta to promise Suharto he would not be embarrassed by protests.

Protests might keep Indonesian leader away

JAKARTA, Sept. 11 (AP) — Indonesia's president might not attend an Asia-Pacific leaders' summit in Canada in November because of possible protests over his country's human rights record in the troubled territory of East Timor, the foreign minister said Wednesday.

> **If our conclusion is that [protests] could get out of hand then why should we subject the president to such indignities?**
>
> ***–Ali Alatas***

Ali Alatas said President Suharto had yet to decide whether to go to the 18 country Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation meeting in Vancouver — the region's biggest annual diplomatic event.

Alatas said Indonesian officials would gauge how serious any protests against Suharto might be in Canada, where there is a vocal network of activists who want independence for East Timor.

"If our conclusion is that it could get out of hand then why should we subject the president to such indignities?" Alatas told the Jakarta Foreign Correspondents' Club.

However he indicated that the president would not be bothered by "demonstrations that are well under control in accordance with the law of the land."

APEC groups Canada, the United States, Japan, China, Australia and most countries of Southeast Asia.

Alatas said Suharto, a 76-year-old former army general who has governed Indonesia for 31 years, believed that overseas official visits should produce good will, not friction between nations.

Alatas said this was one reason Suharto also had no plans to visit neighbouring Australia where protests over the plight of East TImor are common despite close co-operation on other political and economic issues.

East Timor has been wracked by civil unrest, pro-independence guerrilla warfare and human rights abuse since Indonesia invaded the former Portugese colony in 1975. Indonesia annexed East Timor in 1976 and claims it as its 27th province.

The United Nations, currently host to talks between Indonesia and Portugal over the territory's future, does not recognise Indonesia's sovereignty there.

Indonesia's President Suharto to attend APEC

JAKARTA, Oct 7 (AFP) – Indonesian President Suharto will attend the summit of leaders of the economies of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) gathering in Vancouver, Canada, State Secretary Murdiono said Tuesday

"The president has decided to go to Vancouver," Murdiono said according to the official Antara news agency.

Speaking after accompanying Canadian envoy on APEC affairs, Leonard Edward, who met with Suharto to deliver a summit invitation from Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, Murdiono said Suharto would attend the summit on November 24.

Murdiono said Suharto considered the summit, the fifth so far, as important for Indonesia to attend.

Postal worker Dave Bleakney at the Nov. 15 demonstration in Ottawa. The Canadian Union of Postal Workers was a major Canadian Supporter of the Team Timor Campaign.

Finding in-kind and financial support

- ETAN Ottawa volunteer Chris Lawson designed posters for Team Timor. We had them printed and sent to local groups. Thanks go to the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), especially to Steve Jelly, and to Keith in their printshop, for printing thousands of posters at no cost to ETAN.

- We approached New Democrat Member of Parliament Svend Robinson who agreed to support the campaign by providing ETAN with the perfect venue for the November 12 trial – room 200 in the West Block of the Houses of Parliament. In the weeks prior to November 12, rumours began to circulate about Liberal cabinet ministers trying to cancel the booking. True or not, Robinson and the NDP did not compromise on the booking. Robinson also spoke at the second tribunal in Vancouver on November 17th.

- Professor Barbedo worked hard so ETAN could have the photo exhibition on East Timor for events in Ottawa and Vancouver. Our thanks also to other solidarity groups who changed their plans to accommodate ETAN's request for the exhibit.

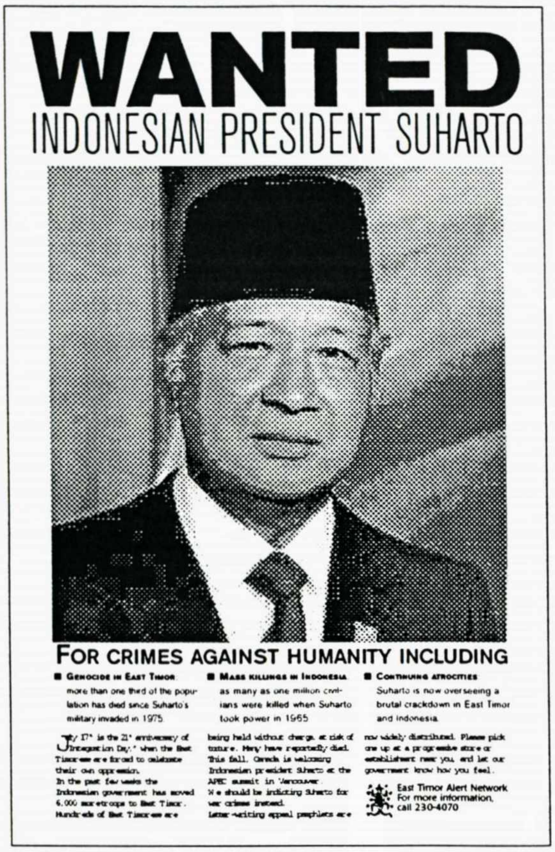
- Faced with the dilemma of finding a way to display the photos professionally on Parliament Hill, ETAN approached Serge Alain, owner of Media 2000 Inc. Serge had never heard of East Timor, but after a short briefing he offered to rent us a display system at cost and enlarged one of the photos for free. Our thanks to Serge for helping us display the photos in such a professional yet inexpensive way.

November 5, 1997: Startling coincidence!

The first of our guests were scheduled to arrive in Ottawa from Portugal, via London, at 4:27 pm on November 5. When we arrived at the airport we found ourselves standing at the gate with twenty-eight staff of the Indonesian embassy, including Ambassador Parwoto.

We all waited, nervously wondering what would happen when our guests walked through the door – but at 4:30, none of our guests arrived, and only the new Indonesian Ambassador to Canada walked through the gate from customs. It turned out he was on the same plane as our guests from London to Ottawa.

Our Timorese guests arrived a couple of hours later, having disembarked in Montreal by mistake. None of them had realized the Indonesian Ambassador had travelled all the way from London on the same plane with them – and all of them thought that when they arrived in Montreal they were in Ottawa!



WANTED

INDONESIAN PRESIDENT SUHARTO

FOR CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY INCLUDING

- GENOCIDE IN EAST TIMOR: more than one third of the population has died since Suharto's military invaded in 1975
- MASS KILLINGS IN INDONESIA: as many as one million civilians were killed when Suharto took power in 1965
- CONTINUING ATROCITIES: Suharto is now overseeing a brutal crackdown in East Timor and Indonesia

July 17th is the 21st anniversary of "Integration Day," when the East Timorese are forced to celebrate their own oppression.
In the past few weeks the Indonesian government has moved 6,000 more troops to East Timor. Hundreds of East Timorese are being held without charge, at risk of torture. Many have reportedly died.
This fall, Canada is welcoming Indonesian president Suharto at the APEC summit in Vancouver.
We should be indicting Suharto for war crimes instead.
Letter-writing appeal pamphlets are now widely distributed. Please pick one up at a progressive store or establishment near you, and let our government know how you feel.

East Timor Alert Network
For more information, call 230-4070

Poster distributed July 17, 1997 in Ottawa

- The Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) donated 400 t-shirts for ETAN to sell throughout the campaign as a cost-recovery initiative. They were designed by ETAN/Ottawa member Chris Lawson, with "Wanted: Suharto, for genocide in East Timor and mass killings in Indonesia" on the front, and relevant sections of the Canadian criminal code on the back. They were sent to all participating ETAN chapters, where they were sold for $15 each. Each chapter was asked to keep $10.00 from every shirt sold to help cover their own campaign costs, and to send $5.00 back to Ottawa to help with our phone bills. This represents a $6,000 donation from the CAW. By January the shirts even found their way to Jakarta, where the *London Observer* photographed an Indonesian demonstrator holding one of the shirts right before police confiscated it.

- The Canadian Union of Postal Workers donated CUPW bags for each member of Team Timor, and we filled them with maps, campaign outlines and individual itineraries, pens and paper and address books. CUPW also donated funds to cover airfare for Joan Grant-Cummings, President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) to be in Ottawa on November 12; an advertisement for the event in the local paper; and paid for a large passenger van to transport our guests around Ottawa. CUPW's Prairie Region also donated $1000 to the campaign.

Media and public outreach:

- We contacted most major media outlets at least two weeks before the campaign started, to give plenty of notice about key dates, and to generate interest. As a result, a small mention of the campaign was made in Canada's national newspaper, the *Globe and Mail* on October 15.

- We officially launched ETAN/Canada's web page (www.etan.ca) on November 5, with notices sent out to activists and journalists around the world. The site devoted a section to the Team Timor campaign. In the first week alone, over one thousand people visited the Team Timor pages, including many journalists, who sent us very positive feedback. This was a terrific way to launch our page, which continues to attract a lot of attention.

November 6th: Axworthy faces tough questions from Timorese

They must have been too busy shampooing the red carpet for Suharto's arrival because the Canadian government laid out a very different reception for our guests. Neither the Minister of Foreign Affairs or the bureaucrats at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) would even meet with people whose families had been killed by Suharto's troops. But our guests did get to meet with Axworthy in public, and in the news.

ETAN wrote to Axworthy on October 15, 1997 to ask him to meet with our East Timorese and Indonesian guests (see letter to Axworthy with campaign materials). But on October 21 we were told the minister wouldn't have time to meet (the same answer he's been giving Bella and ETAN for two years). Less than a week later, on October 27, Georgina Wainwright, a DFAIT desk officer for Indonesia, telephoned on behalf of Ingrid Hall, the Director General of the South and Southeast Asia Bureau, to ask for a meeting with our Timorese and Indonesian guests. A meeting was tentatively planned for 3:15 pm on Friday, November 7.

ETAN attempted to confirm the meeting for over a week, but no one returned our phone calls until November 3rd when Ms. Wainwright phoned to say she was still not able to confirm.

That same day we learned that Minister Axworthy would be speaking to the media and public on November 6th at the University of Ottawa. We spent the evening of the 5th and the morning of the 6th hastily briefing our first seven East Timorese guests on Canadian foreign policy.

ETAN/Ottawa members arrived early at the lecture, and stood outside wearing sandwich boards with oversized "Wanted for war crimes" posters on them, leafleting students and professors as they gathered for Axworthy's talk.

Minister Axworthy sidestepped the issue of East Timor in his presentation, but when he finished, question after

Parliamentary debates, (November 6th, 1997)

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby-Douglas, NDP): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Foreign Affairs. It concerns the upcoming APEC summit. Section 19 of Canada's Immigration Act bars the admission of persons who are heads of a government that is or was engaged in gross human rights violations or crimes against humanity. Will the minister explain why Indonesian President Suharto, guilty of genocidal policies in East Timor and massive human rights violations in Indonesia, is not being barred under the Immigration Act or charged with war crimes if he sets foot on Canadian territory?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, as a lawyer the hon. member should know that any determination of that status is by the courts under international law. There has been no such decision by any international court under any international law. President Suharto will be a guest of Canada at the APEC summit and I expect he will be given the proper courtesy that any guest of Canada is afforded.

question from the audience was about East Timor. Mr. Axworthy responded with long-winded monotone answers – hoping to avoid being quoted – extolling the virtues of dialogue with dictators.

Questions were cut off just as Bella's turn came up at the microphone, so she went down to the front of the room to speak to Mr. Axworthy before he left. The media immediately scrummed the two of them, and this was carried on national television that evening. Mr. Axworthy then went off to "question period" in the House of Commons, where Member of Parliament Svend Robinson was waiting to ask him why Canada was allowing Suharto into Canada.

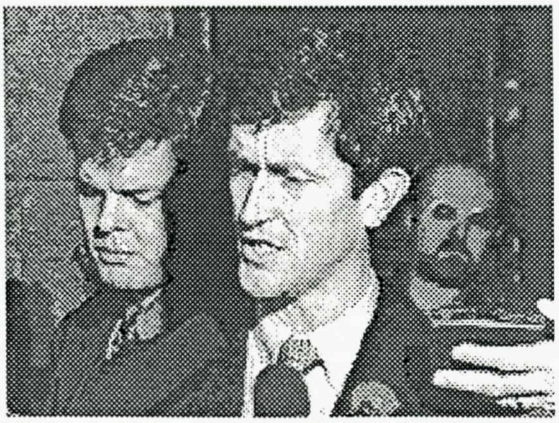
That evening we found a facsimile which was sent to ETAN just as Axworthy's public appearance was ending, stating the meeting with DFAIT tentatively scheduled for the next day would not take place because Ingrid Hall "would not be available." ETAN/Ottawa suspects the timing of the facsimile was intentional. Axworthy's lecture was from noon until 1 pm, and the facsimile was sent at 12:56 pm. It's likely that DFAIT didn't want us asking Axworthy in front of all those journalists why no one in government would meet with our guests.

Global television news carried the story in the evening, and the *Ottawa Citizen* carried the story the next day (see campaign video).

Jusfiq Hadjar arrived from The Netherlands in the evening, just in time to join us for a fabulous dinner at Café Spiga hosted by Portuguese Minister Counsellor Vera Fernandes.

CTV News: Roberto Jerónimo asks Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy to support the East Timorese struggle.

CTV News: Bella Galhos puts Axworthy on the spot, telling him dialogue isn't working, and that while he's talking, talking, talking, her people are dying, dying, dying.



NDP MP Svend Robinson on national television asking why Canada is rolling out the red carpet for a war criminal.

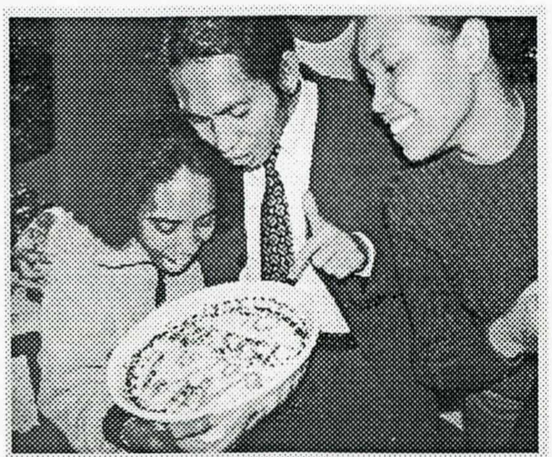
November 7 to 11: Trial and tour preparation

November 7th

ETAN's plans for November 7th were rearranged because of the cancellation of our meeting with DFAIT. Our guests had a chance to rest, and Ines, Céu and Dolly arrived from Australia that afternoon, and Abé arrived from Toronto. We also used this time to finish up the participants' biographies, now that we had most of them here in person. In the evening, Professor Bill Skidmore, a local activist and ETAN supporter, hosted a pot-luck dinner. This gave local activists and supporters an opportunity to meet our guests in a relaxed setting, which was important to ETAN/Ottawa.

November 8th

On November 8th we began our preparatory work at Carleton University. We spent the day briefing our guests on the campaign, Canadian foreign policy to Indonesia and East Timor, and ETAN's work in Canada. George Aditjondro arrived in that evening, and ETAN/Ottawa and our Indonesian and East Timorese guests were treated to a fabulous reception and dinner hosted by Ted Penney, a National Union Representative at the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW). Most of the CUPW's leadership came to meet our guests, despite their very busy week, which culminated in a national postal strike. Brother Penney made a special desert to honour our guests - a sherry trifle decorated with the slogan "To resist is to win!"



Isabel Galhos, Libânio Soares and Solana Soares marvel at CUPW representative Ted Penney's inspired desert creation, a sherry trifle decorated with the slogan "To resist is to win."

Media get substantive background material

The ETAN media kits delivered to journalists included a news release about the trial; photocopies of the November 7 Ottawa Citizen story "NDP MP slams visit by Suharto;" a detailed outline of Team Timor's campaign schedule for across the country; one-page biographies with pictures for each of the speakers; copies of our colour posters; copies of the ETISC torture brochures, and contact cards.

November 9th

In the morning ETAN and our guests did more preparation work for media interviews and the November 12th trial. In the afternoon our guests worked to finish their testimonies and critiqued each other in practice sessions. George and Jusfiq joined members of ETAN/Ottawa for dinner, and ETAN members also spent the evening assembling media briefing kits.

The East Timorese held their own meetings in the evening at the First United Church. They were joined later by José Amorim Dias, who arrived that day from The Netherlands. Bella describes the importance of this get-together:

"We used this evening to share our experiences of life exiled in different countries, and to discuss our future work for a free East Timor. We also sang traditional songs and continued our preparation for the campaign. This kind of gathering is crucial for building our own feelings of solidarity — and our work as a group was the key to this campaign's success.

On November 9, 10 and 11, the East Timorese worked alone in very intense workshops, preparing themselves and their testimonies for the campaign. Bella describes the importance of this time they spent working alone together:

> "This preparation was very difficult, but it was a valuable experience for all of us. Because we did this work we felt a sense of ownership for the campaign — we wanted it to be a success because this was our campaign.
>
> We were a very diverse group — we were young women, young men, and older women and men. We all have had very different experiences. It was very different, culturally, for a young woman like me to try to teach older people my experience. At first we all thought we knew everything. When we started giving each other honest criticism to improve our talks, it was very hard, and sometimes we fought. It wasn't just about correcting our English, but it was also about being ready for questions from the media. We also had to make sure our speeches complemented each other. Everyone was nervous about travelling alone to the other cities.
>
> We all learned to work together, as a group. The Timorese learned to express themselves effectively, and our workshops gave us the confidence we needed."

Thanks to the Ottawa and District Labour Council, to Tracey Lauriault at the Bill Ellis Centre for Mature and Part-time Students at Carleton University and to the First United Church for donating their meeting spaces.

November 10th

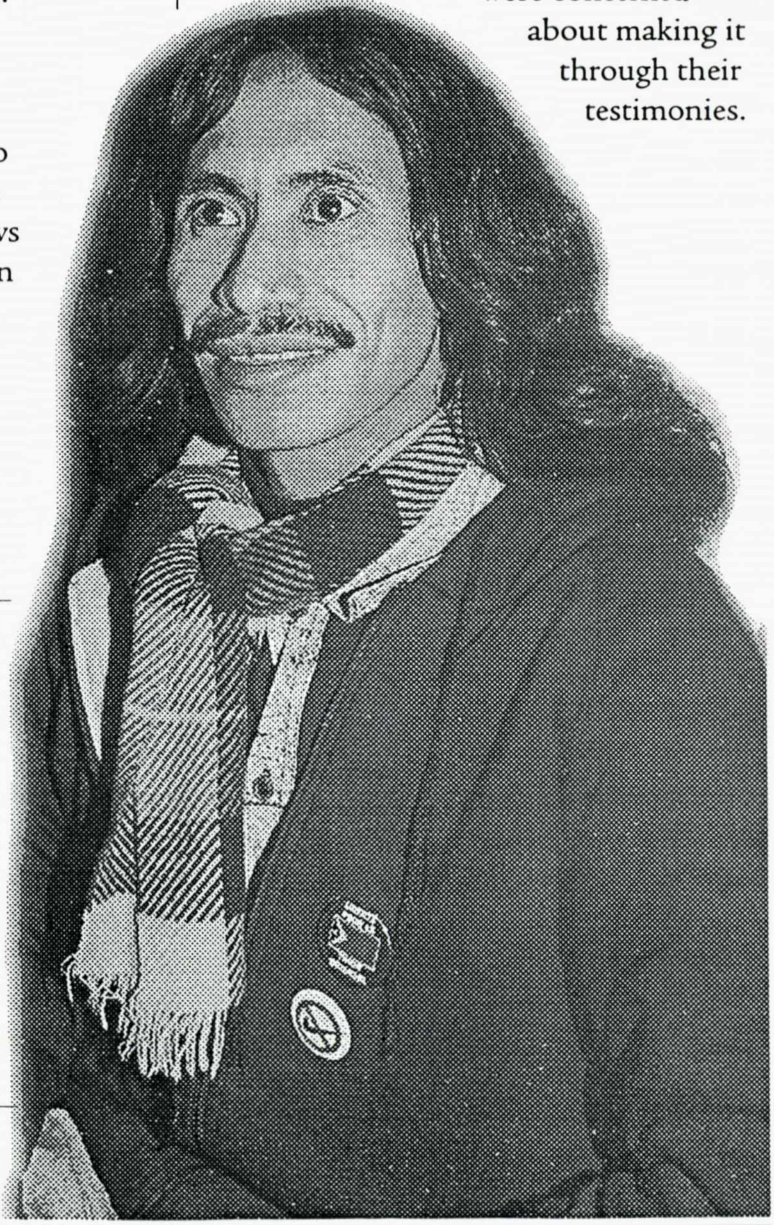
The Timorese gathered in the boardroom of the Ottawa and District Labour Council to continue working on their testimonies. ETAN members delivered media briefing kits to journalists at the Parliamentary press bureau. Thanks to Elaine Brière, we were also able to deliver complimentary copies of her film "Bitter Paradise: The Sell-Out of East Timor" to journalists.

In the evening we all gathered at Kerry's home to celebrate Bella's birthday, and to eat a special meal prepared by Kerry's mom and long-time ETAN supporter Dolly Pither.

November 11th

On November 11th, Aviano gave an excellent interview to CTV National Television News for a piece which would air on the 13th. We made more calls to all media to ensure they would attend the trial the next day. Meanwhile, the Timorese continued preparing and practicing their testimonies before heading to a dinner prepared by long-time ETAN member Jason Amyot. ETAN members set up the room on Parliament Hill and hung the photo exhibit.

In the late evening, we held a rehearsal of the trial. It was here that we all discovered how emotionally difficult this was for the East Timorese speakers. We made back-up plans for those who were concerned about making it through their testimonies.



Although Alfredo had to keep a low profile because of language barriers, he amazed me with his presence — he was a strong moral force for all of us, a true leader who gave us the extra strength we needed to do well in our own public speaking.
– Abé Barreto Soares

November 12th: Suharto on trial on Parliament Hill

ETAN volunteers put up more than 2000 posters in the Ottawa area in the weeks before the trial. We wrote an article for the *Peace and Environment News*, a community newspaper. The *Ottawa Xpress*, a free-distribution news and entertainment weekly, wrote an article on the campaign and gave us a discount on an ad for the trial. ETAN also sent invitations to professors at Carleton University and the University of Ottawa. Volunteers did interviews on campus radio stations and phoned and e-mailed our local supporters to tell them about the event.

Sandra Rock from Réseau d'alerte pour le Timor Oriental, (RATO) – ETAN's French chapter in Montréal – came to help us with French media, faxing and phoning them for hours on November 10, and telling them there would be simultaneous translation into French at the trial.

We scheduled two sessions of the "trial," one from 10 am until noon for the media, and the other in the evening for our supporters in Ottawa who have to work and/or go to school during the day.

The trial took place literally across the street from the national press gallery. This put journalists from major Canadian media outlets and some international media a two minute walk from the trial. The journalists are mostly there to cover events on Parliament Hill. But because Parliament was not in session during the week of November 10, our trial was the event to cover. Members of parliament were not in Ottawa but they heard about our event through the media.

The day started with a 7:30 am interview with reporter Ashley Wright on CBO Morning, CBC Radio's Ottawa morning show. Kerry and José Dias gave the interview on Parliament Hill. This served as a last minute invitation and reminder for supporters and journalists.

The room provided to us – thanks to MP Svend Robinson – was a very formal, large ballroom in the West Block of the Houses of Parliament. We worked hard to maintain a very professional setting. An oversized photograph of a little girl shot during the Dili Massacre, donated by Serge Alain, stood about twelve feet high at the front of the room behind the podium. The speakers' table and podium were draped in traditional East Timorese *tias* (woven cloths) which our guests brought from Portugal and Australia for us to borrow. Along the front of the table we hung a banner which read "Suharto on trial" in block letters, painted for us by ETAN volunteer Tracey Lauriault. The podium and the table were on a raised platform.

At the back of the room, to either side of the giant wooden doors, the photo exhibit was professionally hung on display units with special lighting. Tables with ETAN information and merchandise were also set up near the entrance. We made name badges for the ETAN volunteers with the ETAN logo, and appointed people to seek out and greet journalists.

The doors opened at 9 am, and ETAN volunteers were on hand to greet supporters and journalists as they came into the room. By 10 am the room was half full, and all the major media outlets were set up and recording. We all took a deep breath, and the session began.

Kerry Pither chaired the session. She stressed that this was an international day of action for East Timor, and described some of the events taking place around the world. She then outlined the scope of this Canadian campaign, noting the other participating cities. She also talked about how the Canadian government had not found the time to meet with our guests. Kerry then introduced Professor **Chantal Tie**, an immigration and refugee lawyer and professor of immigration law at the University of Ottawa law school. Professor Tie outlined relevant sections of the Canadian Immigration Act and the Canadian Criminal Code and specifically called on Immigration Minister Lucienne Robillard to use her powers under the Immigration Act to bar Suharto.

Joan Grant-Cummings, the President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC), talked about how ashamed she and other women in Canada are of the Canadian government's complicity in the genocide of East Timor. She described NAC's commitment to the struggle for freedom in East Timor, and described the need for more women to take leadership roles in the struggles for freedom worldwide. She warned the media that what we were about to hear was "not a twenty-second sound bite." Joan introduced **Bella Galhos** and **Josefina Ribeiro** (Dolly), who were the first to give

Kerry Pither

Chantal Tie

Joan Grant-Cummings

Dolly Ribeiro (left) and Bella Galhos

Bob White

Ken Luckhardt

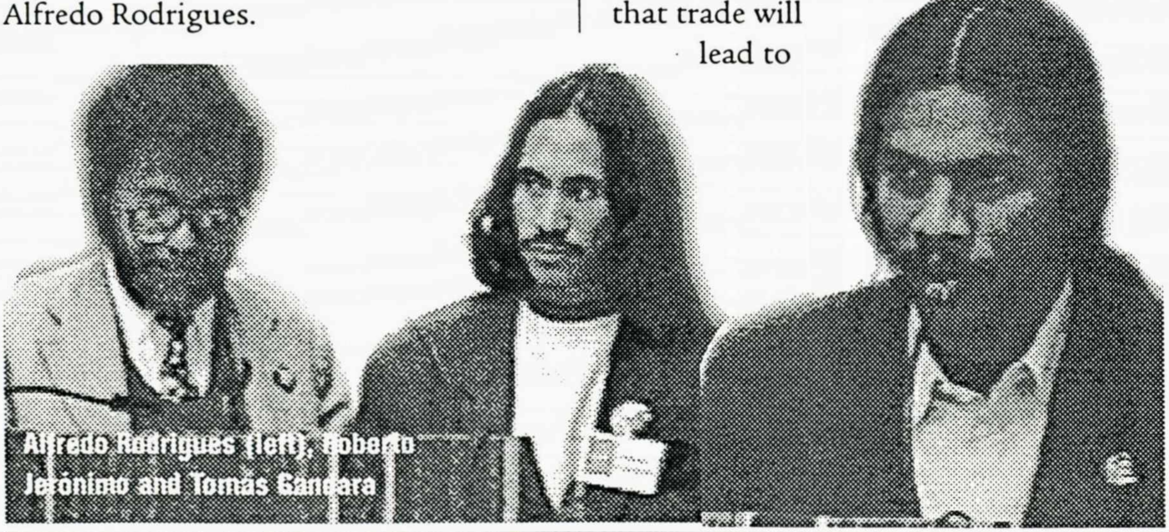
testimonies. Bella began by calling for a moment of silence in memory of those killed five years earlier in the Dili Massacre. Both Bella and Dolly talked about being forcibly injected with Depo Provera. Dolly talked about being sexually abused by her Indonesian teacher – a commonplace occurrence in East Timor. They both recounted their memories as survivors of the Dili Massacre.

Bob White, the President of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) then took the floor, and stressed the CLC's commitment to support the struggles for self-determination in East Timor and freedom of association and speech in Indonesia. He noted the resolution passed in support of ETAN and East Timor at the May 1996 convention, and talked about a campaign underway to free Indonesian labour leader Muchtar Pakpahan. Brother White then introduced Roberto Jerónimo and Alfredo Rodrigues.

Roberto Jerónimo talked about working as a nurse in a hospital in East Timor, and witnessing many killings there. He said when he reacted to these killings, he was told he too would be killed. He also described his years in an Indonesian prison, where he was tortured with cigarettes and electric shocks. He talked of countless fellow Timorese prisoners who were taken away at night and "disappeared."

Alfredo Rodrigues told how his father, brother and mother were killed by Indonesian troops, and named each battalion responsible for these deaths. He recalled being shot with five bullets, and described how he was tortured each time he was captured. He told how he sought refuge in the Japanese embassy in 1995. He then allowed reporters to photograph the torture scars on his back.

Ken Luckhardt, Union Representative for the Canadian Auto Workers Union (CAW) and long-time international solidarity worker, talked about the CAW's support for East Timor and how the CAW had incorporated East Timor into its union education programme. He reminded us that the Canadian government used the same argument – that trade will lead to



Alfredo Rodrigues (left), Roberto Jerónimo and Tomás Gandara

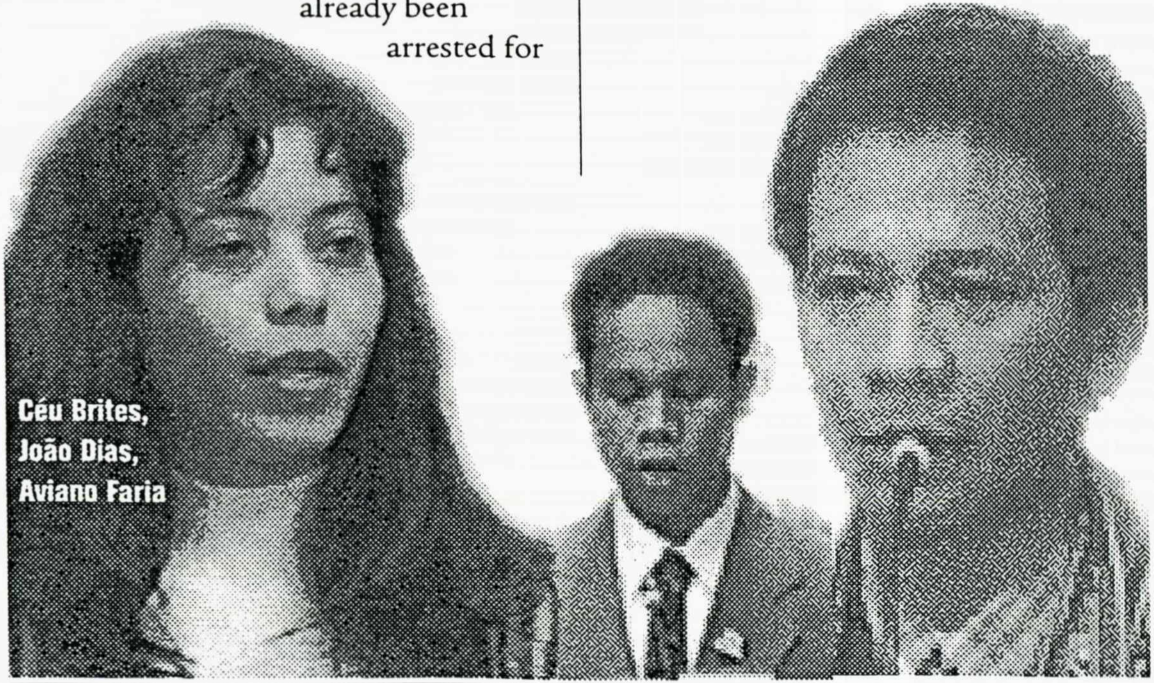
Jennifer Story

Marion Dewar

democracy — in the 1980's to attempt to justify friendly relations with Apartheid South Africa. He introduced **Tomás Alfredo Gandara**, who spoke as one of the "stolen generation" — East Timorese children kidnapped and taken to Indonesia by the Indonesian invaders. Tomás described how he learned after growing up in Indonesia that he was East Timorese. He talked about being reunited with surviving relatives in East Timor and learning how his father, mother, and their unborn child were murdered.

Jennifer Story, National Deputy Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), opened the second session. She spoke about how students across Canada were joining this struggle and how some had already been arrested for peacefully opposing Suharto's visit to Canada. She said these students would not rest until the Canadian government ended its support for the Indonesian regime, and stressed the CFS' commitment to step up its work for East Timor. Jennifer introduced two East Timorese students — Aviano Faria and João Dias.

Aviano Faria spoke as another survivor of the Dili Massacre. He described how he was beaten by Indonesian soldiers and taken to the morgue with others. He described witnessing survivors being bludgeoned with stones. He talked about painful headaches he still experiences as a result of being so badly beaten. **João António Dias** talked about being at Dili's military hospital, where he worked as a lab technician, when survivors were brought in from the Dili Massacre. He recalled witnessing the military killing any survivors by injecting them with sulphuric acid, running them over with trucks and beating them on the head with stones.

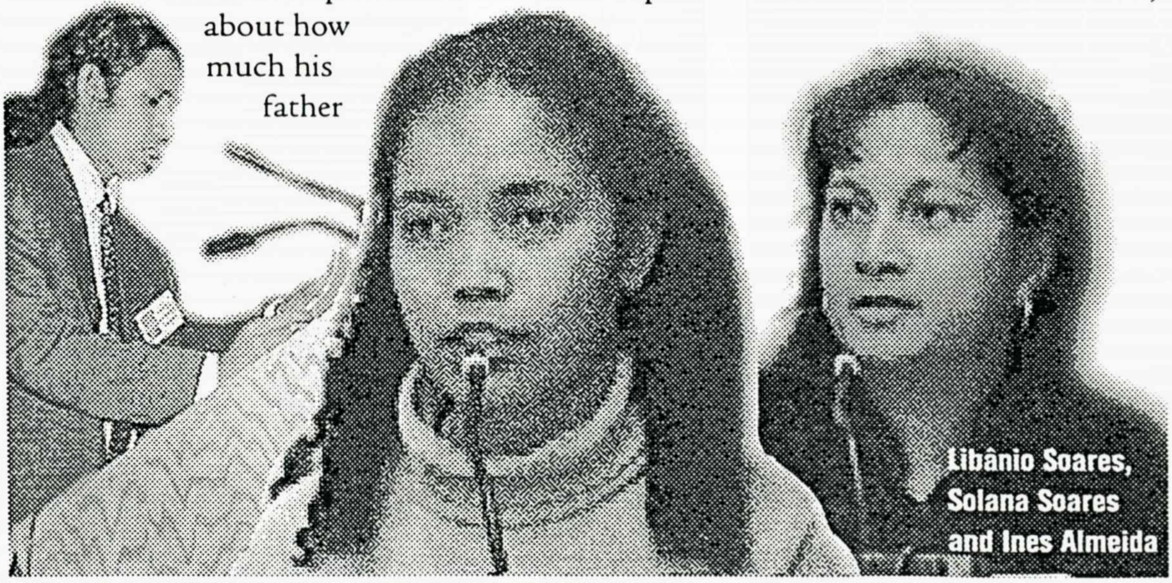


Céu Brites,
João Dias,
Aviano Faria

Maude Barlow

Marion Dewar, former mayor of Ottawa and long-time supporter of East Timor, reminded us that the Canadian government already had turned away Jews fleeing from Nazi Germany, and appealed to Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy not to repeat this kind of history. She condemned the Canadian government for welcoming Suharto to Canada, and gave a moving introduction to **Ines Almeida**. Ines pointed out the risks being taken by those speaking at the trial, noting that the Indonesian embassy's staff were in the room filming the testimonies. She then talked about the isolation and loss felt by the exiled East Timorese community. She reminded us that there were many massacres besides the Dili Massacre, and appealed to the international community to stop supporting Suharto's regime with trade and military sales.

Libânio Soares spoke as a survivor of the Dili Massacre, remembering the screams of young people who were killed. He spoke about how much his father had suffered as a prisoner of the Indonesian military. He described how as a youth he saw military everywhere in the streets of his homeland, and how he was scared and angry, but vowed to work for his country's freedom. **Solana da Conceição Soares** concluded this second session by describing how much her parents had suffered before finally leaving their homeland. Her father was badly tortured for two years in prison. She described the horrible conditions inside the prison where her father was kept. She spoke of how her mother, left to raise her children alone, was continually interrogated and harassed by the military.



Libânio Soares, Solana Soares and Ines Almeida

Maude Barlow, National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians, opened the third and final session of the trial. She denounced the Canadian government's policy of putting trade and profit ahead of human rights in the global economic order. She described how APEC was completely ignoring social justice issues, and talked about the complicity of Canadian business in abuses around the world. She introduced **Céu Brites**, who spoke of how her mother hid in the mountains for three years before being captured in 1979. She told how in 1978,

Professor Peter Eglin

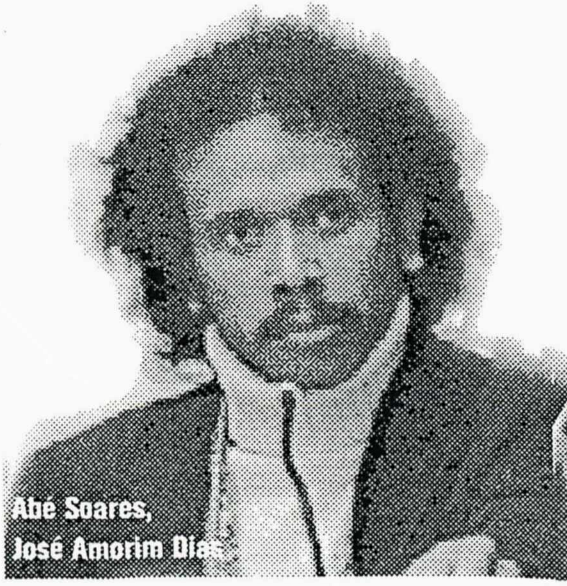
Suharto promised amnesty to hiding East Timorese and how her brother was one of thousands who risked coming out of hiding only to be shot dead by Indonesian troops. She spoke of her niece being thrown out of a helicopter by Indonesian troops. She condemned the complicity of governments in Australia, the United States and Canada.

Abé Barreto Soares spoke of growing up in East Timor and studying in Indonesian schools. He described how he came to Canada on a student exchange program, and about hearing about his friends being killed in the Dili Massacre. He recalled how this led to his very difficult personal struggle and the decision to defect and take up the struggle for his country's freedom in Canada. **José Amorim Dias** described the tragic loss of his father, who was tortured in front of his family. He talked about how his father's torturers told he and his younger brother João that they would suffer the same treatment if they dared to resist. He called on the international community to help end the suffering of his people.

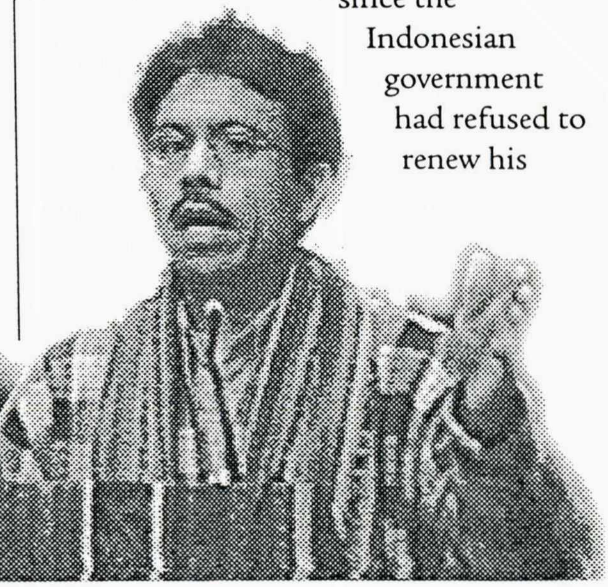
Peter Eglin, a professor of Anthropology and Sociology at Wilfrid Laurier University, spoke about the complicity of some of Canada's academics and university administrations, who have chosen to support Canadian business interests in Indonesia. He introduced Indonesian activists Jusfiq Hadjar and George Aditjondro.

Jusfiq Hadjar reminded us about atrocities committed by the Indonesian military in Aceh and West Papua. He spoke of growing support for East Timor's struggle inside Indonesia, and recalled many massacres inside of Indonesia itself. He remembered a return visit to Indonesia and his run-in with the Indonesian secret police.

Indonesian professor **George Aditjondro** passed on the blessing of Bishop Belo, to whom he had spoken to earlier in the morning about the trial. George spoke about how he ended up exiled in Australia for being openly critical of the Suharto regime. He spoke of how difficult travelling had become since the Indonesian government had refused to renew his



Abé Soares,
José Amorim Dias



passport. He called for an end to Canadian military exports to Indonesia, and for Canada to freeze trade until the Indonesia is out of East Timor. George coined a phrase which would be used repeatedly in the days and weeks to come: "Bar Suharto or put him behind bars!"

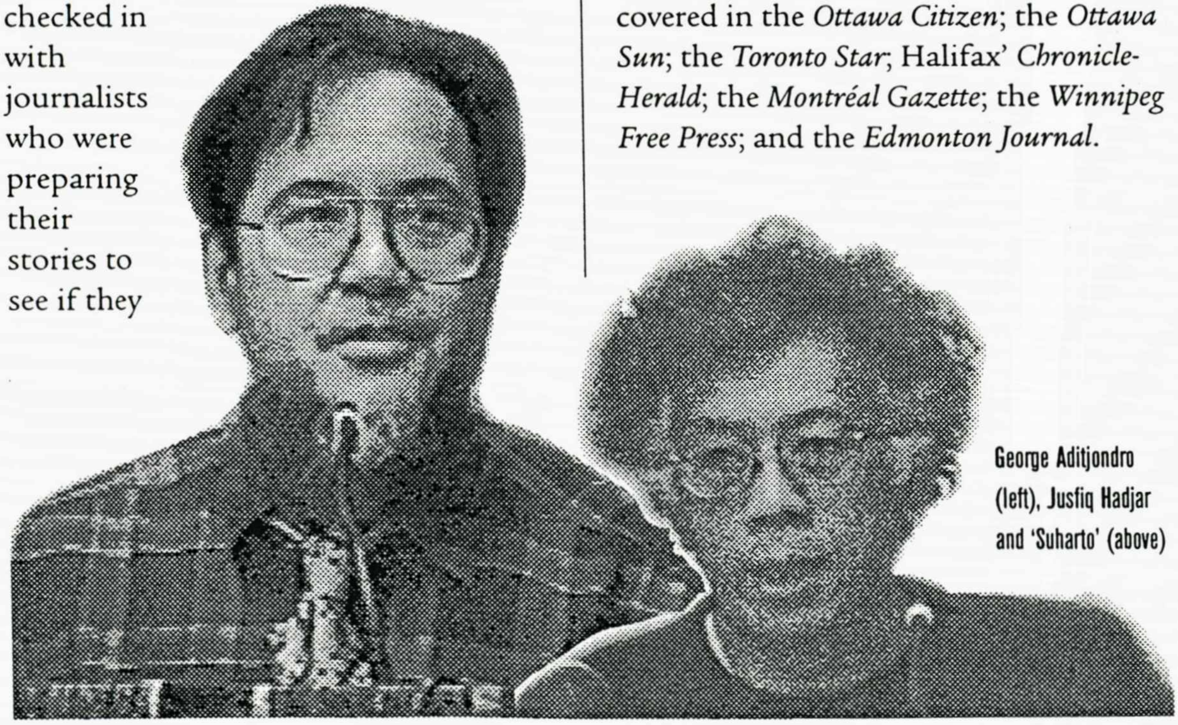
There was a question period after the testimonies. Many in the audience were speechless or in tears. The cumulative effect of the testimony left us all emotionally drained.

One of our volunteers, Mim Pierce, had crafted a paper maché Suharto head, and another of our volunteers put it on and walked to the front of the room. "Suharto" was found guilty of crimes against humanity in East Timor and Indonesia — a light-hearted gesture that actually helped ease the tension in the room.

Following the trial reporters interviewed our guests and members of ETAN. Then we all took a much needed break. Later in the afternoon we checked in with journalists who were preparing their stories to see if they needed any information.

The trial was repeated from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, with a little more time for discussion at the end.

That evening the trial was covered on CBC National Radio News, CTV National Television News and Global Television News. Apparently the trial was also mentioned in the United Kingdom on the BBC news. The next day, on the 13th, we were happy to see that despite the looming national postal strike, most of Canada's major newspapers still made lots of room for our story. We may have missed some of the places it was covered, but we do know it was covered in the *Ottawa Citizen*; the *Ottawa Sun*; the *Toronto Star*; Halifax' *Chronicle-Herald*; the *Montréal Gazette*; the *Winnipeg Free Press*; and the *Edmonton Journal*.



George Aditjondro (left), Jusfiq Hadjar and 'Suharto' (above)

CBC Radio National News: The World at Six

November 12, 1997 6pm EST

AN:	Announcer
BG:	Bella Galhos
CH:	Chris Hall
JD:	João António Dias
LB:	Libânio de Fátima Soares
KP:	Kerry Pither

AN: A human rights group is continuing it's campaign to have Indonesia's president barred from next week's summit of pacific rim leaders in Vancouver. The East Timor Action Network [sic] says President Suharto is guilty of crimes against humanity during the Indonesian military's 22-year occupation of the island. Today, the group staged a mock trial on parliament hill calling 13 refugees from East Timor to give evidence. As Chris Hall reports, the evidence coincided with the 6th anniversary of the massacre of more than 200 people attending a funeral in the East Timor capital.

BG: I will remember that day as long as I live...

CH: Bella Galhos was the first East Timorese refugee to tell her story at the mock trial. Galhos fled to Canada after witnessing the massacre six years ago in the capital Dili.

BG: The massacre that finally brought East Timor to reality; international attention. But what is the cost? Over 200 people! Young people! Men, women and children.

CH: Today, one by one, the 13 witnesses from East Timor told their stories. Many wept at their personal memories, others at hearing similar stories of torture and loss. João António Dias was working at the at the hospital in Dili the night of the massacre.

JD: The survivors were calling out for their mothers. They were calling for help. The military response was to stab them with daggers, with rifle butts, and to smash their heads. I couldn't speak at all.

CH: In its 1997 report Amnesty International lists hundreds of cases of human rights abuses by the Indonesian military in East Timor. But the evidence compiled by human rights groups has had little impact on the Chretien government. Kerry Pither of the East Timor Action Network says a Team Canada mission to Indonesia two years ago proves that.

KP: Team Canada goes abroad in search of profits and free trade. We've ask them to speak about human rights but they very rarely do and when they do so, they do so very quietly. Their priority is profit.

CH: Pither's group and the East Timorese refugees are organizing protests across Canada leading up to next week's APEC meeting in Vancouver. Libânio Soares says Canada can lead the international community in condemning human rights abuses in his homeland.

LS: I appeal to the Canadian people not to allow Suharto to enter Canada, your motherland.

CH: There's little chance the appeal will be granted. Last week foreign affairs minister Lloyd Axworthy said Suharto will not be barred, and he made it clear the Chretien government feels it's more effective to deal with human rights issues though trade and dialogue with Indonesia, than isolation. Chris Hall, CBC News, Ottawa

November 13th: Team Timor goes coast to coast

On November 13th most of our guests bid farewell to ETAN/Ottawa members and left for other Canadian cities. Bella Galhos, Alfredo Rodrigues and Jusfiq Hadjar remained in Ottawa for the November 15th National Day of Action, and Ines Almeida stayed on until the 14th, when she left for Vancouver. The other participants left for Halifax, St. John's, Montreal, Waterloo, Windsor, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary, Edmonton and Victoria.

November 14th to 16th: Ottawa

November 14th: Last-minute news conference

Early in the morning of Friday, November 14th, we learned that students had been shot in Dili. We quickly phoned the media and organized a news conference on Parliament Hill, and luckily, Ines, Bella, Alfredo and Jusfiq were still in Ottawa.

Asia

Students face troops in East Timor

Indonesian troops fired shots into the air to disperse hundreds of students yesterday in East Timor. Nine people — five students and four soldiers — were injured, police said. But student activists, who refused to give their names, said two students were killed in the violence outside the University of East Timor in Dili. Two days earlier, students had held a peaceful candlelight service to commemorate the massacre of pro-independence protesters by Indonesian troops on Nov. 12, 1991. In Ottawa, the Canadian Labour Congress and human-rights groups said the incident is another example of the ruthlessness of President Suharto's regime and further reason to bar him from entering Canada for the Pacific Rim economic summit that is scheduled to open in Vancouver in nine days.

— AP, *Staff*

Alfredo and Ines speaking at the last-minute news conference on November 14th on Parliament Hill.

We were also lucky that despite less than an hour's notice, Dick Martin, Secretary Treasurer of the Canadian Labour Congress, was able to join us. A media advisory was faxed out to all of our media contacts, and we followed up the fax with phone calls. The news conference was held at 1 pm in Room 130S on Parliament Hill.

All of the news conference participants called on the Canadian government to publicly condemn the shootings and press the Indonesian government to allow independent observers into East Timor to assess the situation. Participants also urged Immigration Minister, Lucienne Robillard, to use her powers under the Immigration Act to bar Suharto from Canada. The news conference was covered briefly in the *Globe and Mail*. CBC National Radio News broadcast coverage at least twice, and CTV National News also covered it repeatedly on their national news channel (see campaign video).

Following the news conference, Ines Almeida bid farewell to ETAN/Ottawa members and flew to Vancouver to join activities there.

That evening ETAN/Ottawa finished its preparations for the next day's "Convoy for a Free East Timor" – Ottawa's contribution to the November 15th "National Day of Protest for East Timor and Indonesia." This included building a ten foot wreath out of grape vines, writing and faxing out a news release, choosing the banners and other props we would use, and preparing speakers' notes.

CBC Radio: The World at 6

November 14, 1997 6pm EST

AN: Announcer
IA: Ines Almeida
BKS: Brian K. Smith
BG: Bella Galhos
DM: Dick Martin

Headline:

AN: Oppression in East Timor: conflicting reports about a clash between students and police.

Story (begin time 6:22:58; length 2min 10sec)

AN: There are more reports of government oppression in East Timor, the territory that has been occupied for two decades by Indonesia. Government troops apparently opened fire on hundreds of students who were occupying a university campus. There are conflicting reports about the number of dead and injured. The International Red Cross in Geneva has lodged an official protest.

Here in Canada today's attack has renewed demands that the Canadian government take diplomatic action against the Suharto government in Indonesia. Brian K. Smith has this report.

IA: Over 200 Indonesian troops surrounded the campus and opened fire on the students.

BKS: Dissidents from East Timor who are now in Canada are starting to get word out of what happened in their homeland early this morning. But it's not easy to get details.

IA: The situation in Dili, East Timor continues to be chaotic as I speak to you today. The press is barred from obtaining further details.

BKS: But reports from Amnesty International suggest that at least one person was killed, perhaps as many as five. Others were taken away to a military hospital, including one who was dragged out of a Red Cross ambulance, then beaten. Bella Galhos is a refugee from East Timor now living in Canada.

BG: This is my experience. These students will face torture, electric shocks, cigarette burns, and be made to disappear, as normal practice by the Indonesian military in my country. This is a crime against the people of East Timor by Suharto's troops.

BKS: The East Timor dissidents want Ottawa to bar Suharto from coming to Canada next week for the Asia-Pacific summit in Vancouver. Dick Martin of the Canadian Labour Congress will be at the APEC summit to host a counter-conference on human rights.

DM: It's rather interesting that they will bar two of the participants that we've invited to our conference but will not bar president Suharto. It's our estimation that he probably ranks amongst the top ten bloodiest dictators this century.

BKS: Today's attack in East Timor also raises questions about Canada's growing trade relationship with Indonesia. Dissidents ask how many more must be killed before Canada puts human rights in front of trade. Brian K. Smith, CBC News, Ottawa

TRY SUHARTO FOR
WAR CRIMES
EAST TIMOR
IS A CANADIAN ISSUE

Alfredo Rodrigues aboard the lead vehicle in Ottawa's November 15 convoy for a free East Timor.

November 15th, Ottawa: Convoy for a Free East Timor!

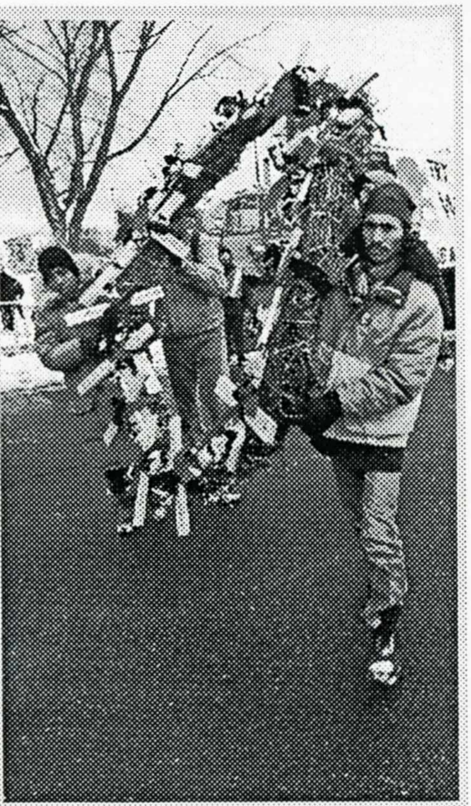
ETAN/Ottawa did a lot of work to prepare for November 15th:

- Special convoy posters were designed and put up both indoors and outdoors around Ottawa;
- Phone calls were made to our supporters;
- The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) was approached to help us find a large truck and unionized driver to lead the convoy through the city. Brother Bill Chedore at the CLC contacted Mike Gallagher of Local 793 of the International Union of Operating Engineers, who supplied ETAN/Ottawa with a very large crane truck and a driver;
- The police were contacted and asked to escort our convoy through a very busy section of downtown Ottawa. They were very helpful, changing our route to ensure maximum exposure to the public;
- Posters were made for participating vehicles to put in their windows, and black flags were cut to hang from car windows;
- A leaflet was made to distribute to the public along the route;
- A news release was sent to the media on the 14th;
- A giant wreath was made out of grapevines, ribbons and crosses;
- A song sheet was printed with the words and translation to "Kolele mai."

When we planned our November 15th event, ETAN/Ottawa wanted to include the Canadian government in our focus. Two years ago, the Embassy

> For me personally this campaign reaffirmed my commitment to East Timor. The chance to meet the Timorese and Indonesians was amazing because there are so few here. It was one of the best, the best I can remember, experiences of my life. Yup...
>
> ETAN/Ottawa member Jessie Read.

of Indonesia moved out of its easily accessible downtown location to an suburban location. When they were still downtown, we held marches which began at the embassy and proceeded through the downtown streets to the Houses of Parliament, linking Canadian complicity to Indonesian atrocities. Because this was no longer possible, we decided this year to drive between Parliament Hill and the embassy with decorated cars and trucks and bicycles!


Alfredo Rodrigues (right) and Bella Galhos carry a memorial wreath for the hundreds killed at the Dili massacre to the Indonesian embassy in Ottawa.

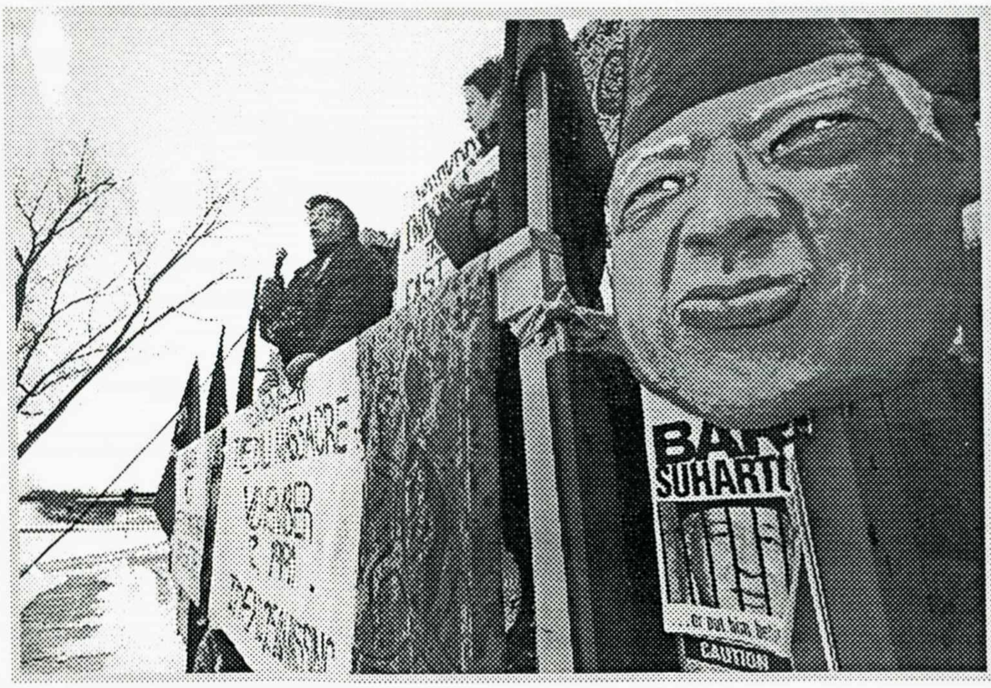
We arrived at Parliament Hill early in the morning to decorate the large truck which would lead the convoy. The truck was covered in banners, posters were put in car windows, black flags were distributed, and our negotiations with police were finalized.

The convoy of cars and bicycles, led by the decorated truck, looped around in front of the Houses of Parliament before heading through the downtown streets. ETAN volunteers Jessie, Jeff, Chris and Ruben rode on the truck, hopping on and off and running alongside it leafleting pedestrians and other drivers as we passed by. The police were very accommodating – giving us an escort complete with attention-grabbing lights and sirens – through Chinatown and other busy neighbourhoods on the way to the embassy. We all chanted and honked our horns on the way. The response was encouraging – people honked their horns and cheered or waved as we went by – showing how much awareness has grown about East Timor. Alfredo rode in the truck, and told us later that he was very moved by this experience.

Media were waiting for us when we arrived at the embassy, where Bella, Jusfiq and Alfredo spoke and then laid the giant wreath against the embassy fence in memory of the victims of the Dili Massacre. Once the wreath was laid, Bella and Alfredo led us in singing the Tetum song, "Kolele Mai" (Who is the guilty one), and everyone had song sheets to sing along. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) video-taped the whole demo, but we doubt they'll give us a copy...

November 16th: Prayers said for East Timor

On Sunday, as part of the "National Day of Prayer for East Timor," Bella and Alfredo spoke at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, after a warm introduction by Father Robert Smith. ETAN volunteers George and Brian leafleted the congregation of at least 600 as they were leaving.



Jusfiq Hadjar gave a moving and hopeful speech to Ottawa demonstrators in front of the Indonesian embassy on November 15th.

The Ottawa Citizen carried a large picture and short story in November 16th's paper, and it was also covered on CJOH, a local television station.

We were all pleasantly surprised by how effective the convoy was – although we had a smaller turn-out than usual, once we were all in cars driving through downtown streets, it seemed like one of the largest, loudest events we had ever held. It was also very nice to be inside cars instead of outside on that very cold day!

Kolele Mai

Who is the guilty one?
Who is really to blame?

What is it that makes our corn not grow?
What is it that makes our rice not flower?

Who is the guilty one?
Who is really to blame?

What is the cause of our hunger?
What is the cause of our never ending sweat?

Who is the guilty one?
Who is really to blame?

Some say you are lazy, some say you are stupid
Some say you are lazy, some say you are poor

Who is the guilty one?
Who is really to blame?

Kolele Mai

Kole lele mai rade kokodele kole le mai x2
Kole lele mai rade kokodele kole hele laloi kolele mai

Sa sa ha'a nalo o batar la fulin kole le mai
Sa sa ha'a nalo o hare la burit kole le mai

Kole lele mai rade kokodele kole le mai x2
Kole lele mai rade kokodele kole hele laloi kolele mai

Se se ha'a nalo o kabun la bosu kole le mai
Se se ha'a nalo o kosar la maran kole le mai

Kole lele mai rade kokodele kole le mai x2
Kole lele mai rade kokodele kole hele laloi kolele mai

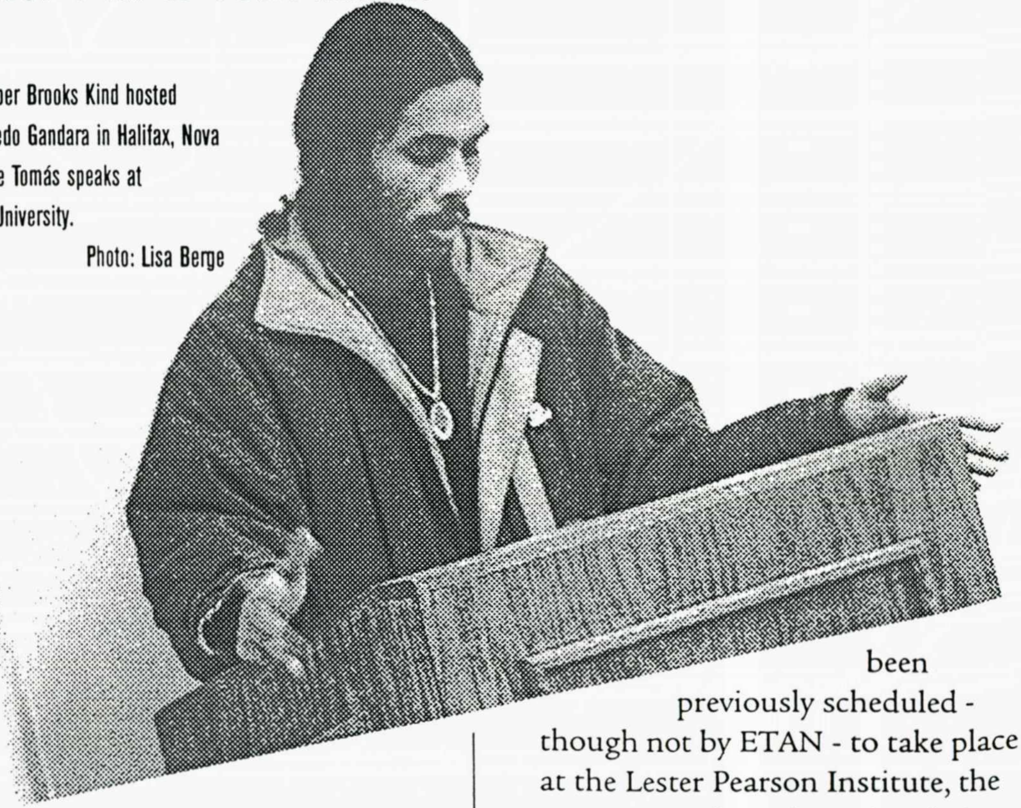
Balu dehan o baruk balu katak o beik kole le mai
Balu ra'ak o baruk balu katak o kiak kole le mai

Kole lele mai rade kokodele kole le mai x2
Kole lele mai rade kokodele kole hele laloi kolele mai

Sa sa ha'a nalo? kole le mai
Se se se los se? kole le mai

Kole lele mai rade kokodele kole le mai x2
Kole lele mai rade kokodele kole hele laloi Kolele mai.

November 14th to 16th: Halifax



ETAN member Brooks Kind hosted Tomás Alfredo Gandara in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Here Tomás speaks at Dalnousie University.

Photo: Lisa Berge

Friday, November 14th's activities were organized by ETAN/Halifax member Brooks Kind, who filed this report:

On Friday, November 14, Tomás spoke at the Student Union Building of Dalhousie University. The talk had been previously scheduled - though not by ETAN - to take place at the Lester Pearson Institute, the very centre where the university's controversial Indonesia projects are coordinated.

Two days before Tomás' talk, the Lester Pearson Institute backed out, saying their property could not be used. They gave a number of embarrassingly bogus official and unofficial excuses, none of which so

November 14th to 16th: St. John's

Libânio de Fátima Soares travelled to St. John's, Newfoundland, where he was hosted by ETAN volunteer Ted Baker. On Friday, November 14th Libânio was interviewed on the local CBC radio station, and this was aired on Sunday, November 16. Libânio also spoke at a local high school on Friday, were he was well received.

On Saturday evening Libânio, Ted Baker and Sean Murray attended a talk and slide-show about Tibet. Afterwards, they all when to a local club, where Libânio spoke, sang Timorese songs and played guitar for a very supportive and receptive audience.

On Sunday, Libânio attended a church mass in St. John's, where prayers were said for East Timor, as part of the "National Day of Prayer for East Timor."

much as hinted at the real reason – that Dalhousie University administrators are unwilling to do anything that might jeopardize their lucrative Canadian International Development Assistance (CIDA) funded Indonesia projects.

Whether the last minute change of venues affected turn-out it is difficult to know, but Tomás spoke to a relatively small though attentive crowd at the Dalhousie University's student union building. He spoke very powerfully and movingly about his experiences as one of Timor's "stolen generation," of his life in Indonesia and his return to East Timor to work for the resistance.

His quiet courage in the face of the constant risk of torture and execution, so representative of the heroic Timorese spirit, was not lost among the assembled crowd who were deeply moved by Tomás' story. It brought the brutal realities of Indonesia's genocide – and Canada's complicity in it – home to them in a way they will not forget. A lot of information about East Timor and Indonesia was distributed after the talk. Later the same day Tomás gave his testimony in a taped interview for CKDU community radio.

> **Tomás' visit to Halifax was a very successful one and not only helped us in our ongoing efforts to educate the public about these issues, but also provided ETAN Halifax with some fresh and damning evidence of the disgraceful extent to which our universities are beholden to the Indonesian authorities and Ottawa mandarins by their Faustian bargains with CIDA and Suharto. Our thanks to Tomás and to the ETAN Ottawa organizers for making this possible. "**
>
> *- Brooks Kind, ETAN/Halifax*

Saturday, November 15th:

On Saturday, Fred Furlong, Regional Education Officer for the Atlantic regional office of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), arranged for Tomás to speak at the annual general meeting of the Atlantic Regional Solidarity Network (ARSN). ARSN is a coalition of labour, church and human rights groups and individuals from the Atlantic provinces who work on international solidarity, focussing on Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico and Cuba. The ARSN was excited to have Tomás speak at their meeting, and he was very well received. Following the meeting, activists committed to using the internet to distribute urgent actions and other information on East Timor.

November 14th to 16th: Montréal

Solana da Conceição Soares travelled to Montreal, where she was hosted by Sandra Rock and other members of Réseau d'alerte pour le Timor Oriental (RATO) – the French chapter of ETAN, as well as Montreal's English ETAN chapter. The following information was provided by Sandra.

Friday, November 14th:

Solana attended and spoke at Concordia University. This was organized by ETAN and RATO/Montreal and Indigenous Peoples International (IPI). About 200 people, mostly students, filled the room. We began by screening Elaine Brière's film, "Bitter Paradise: The Sell-Out of East Timor." Solana spoke for about 30 minutes and then answered many questions. People in the audience were very interested in Canadian complicity and in Portugal's role in East Timor.

Many people requested more information and wanted to remain in touch with our group – at least 15 expressed an interest in joining RATO's volunteer work. Many of them speak Portuguese and some live outside of Montreal – this is very positive, as we reached out to completely new communities of people. CKUT-FM Radio interviewed Solana, and her talk was also recorded. We had a Portuguese translator in the audience in case Solana needed assistance, but in the end, she spoke in English for the full session.

Saturday, November 15th:

On Saturday Solana took part in the Forum Populaire sur l'APEC, held at the Université du Québec a Montréal (UQAM). In the morning she participated on a panel discussion with Jerry Pascal from the Native Peoples Committee and journalist and editor Naomi Klein. Solana spoke for 20 minutes. There were about 100 people in the audience. When the afternoon session opened, we asked the audience of about 175 people to join the "National Day of Protest for East Timor and Indonesia" and commemorate the Dili Massacre by yelling and making noise – loud enough that all of Québec and Canada could hear our indignation!

In the afternoon Solana participated to a workshop on National Sovereignty and Democratic Development with a professor of economics, where about 25 people were in the audience. Following the workshop, Solana was interviewed by a local cultural newspaper called *Ici.* Clément Trudel and Normand Baillargeon at *Le Devoir*, Julien Lapointe at the *McGill Daily*, and Eric at *Place Publique*, Lyle Stewart at *The Mirror*, and CFKUT FM also covered the story.

> This was a great campaign for everyone. I was personally very happy to meet 13 East Timorese at once, and it gave me a lot of stimulation and inspiration to continue the struggle.
>
> **– Sandra Rock, RATO/Montréal**

Note: posters and news coveage from Montreal are included in the campaign materials section of this report.

November 14th to 16th: Toronto

Roberto Jerónimo visited Toronto, where his activities were organized by João Rolo, a member of ETAN/Toronto and Voxnova. Following is a summary of João's report:

Activities in Toronto were coordinated by a new group of volunteers for East Timor. They are a group of Portuguese Canadian Toronto-based youth who recently formed the organization Voxnova, the organized voice of Portuguese Canadian youth affiliated with the Portuguese Canadian National Congress. Roberto's visit acted as a catalyst for the group to launch a new project titled " Projecto Acção Timor" (Project Action Timor).

Roberto arrived on November 13th in the evening and stayed until noon of November 16th. Prior to his arrival João sent out media releases and was interviewed by CIUT and CKLN radio stations about Roberto's visit.

On the morning of November 14th Roberto was interviewed by one of the largest weekly Portuguese Language newspapers of Toronto and Canada, *Sol Português*. Following the interview Roberto had an opportunity to make some phone calls and prepare for a presentation in the evening at the University of Toronto.

Roberto's presentation at the University of Toronto was attended by approximately 30 people, some of whom have since started volunteering for East Timor. This talk was particularly important for the members of Voxnova – many did not have a comprehensive knowledge of the situation of East Timor. Roberto's presentation provided them with knowledge and determination to organize educational activities for East Timor.

On the morning of November 15th Roberto was interviewed on CKLN radio. Later in the day he met with the President of the Portuguese Canadian National Congress and members of its executive. Based on Roberto's presentation, the Congress decided to write a letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, requesting that the Canadian Government not allow President Suharto to enter Canada as per Canadian War Crimes Legislation. In the evening Roberto socialized informally with friends and supporters of East Timor at his hosts' home.

> Roberto's visit to Toronto was extremely successful and important in mobilizing new constituents to act for East Timor. This was revealed both through increased awareness about East Timor and through direct action taken on behalf of East Timor by the influential Portuguese Canadian National Congress, through the letter it sent to the Minister of External Affairs.
>
> **– João Rolo, Voxnova and ETAN member**

On Sunday November 16th, as part of the "National Day of Prayer for East Timor," Roberto read at a catholic religious mass for East Timor. The Timorese youths who were killed a few days earlier by the Indonesian army were remembered at the mass, which was attended by 300 to 400 Portuguese speaking people. Following the service Roberto had an opportunity to meet with Father Fernando Couto, who is a strong supporter of East Timor.

Voxnova would like to thank Professor Barbedo for the sponsorship provided and Roberto for taking time from his busy schedule to come to Toronto.

A significant positive result of the Roberto's visit to Toronto was the extensive media coverage of his story by two English language radio stations and various Portuguese Language newspapers.

The positive results of Roberto's visit to Toronto continue to unfold. Voxnova has passed a resolution to begin preparing now for a Week of Education and Action for East Timor in May 1998. The Portuguese Canadian National Congress will be following up soon on its letter to Foreign Affairs Minister, possibly requesting a meeting with the minister.

Note: João's full report, and the letters and articles referred to here are included in the campaign materials section of this report.

November 14th: Waterloo, Ontario

George Aditjondro stopped in Waterloo on his way to Victoria and Vancouver, British Columbia. He was hosted by Professor Peter Eglin, Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at Wilfrid Laurier University. Following is Professor Eglin's report on George's visit to Waterloo:

On the morning of November 14, Dr. George Aditjondro gave a Laurier Lecture at Wilfrid Laurier University (WLU) and then met with interested students and faculty over lunch. The lecture was very successful as an academic event. It also generated publicity in the student newspaper, and received a small notice in *The Record* of Kitchener-Waterloo. The visit was the occasion for the coming together of a small ad hoc group of students who assisted in its organization and provided the bulk of the inquisitive audience for George over lunch. Although hopes for the development of a Kitchener-Waterloo chapter of ETAN were not realized from this visit, the visibility of East Timor as a major international issue with Canadian connections was considerably enhanced among students, faculty and administration at WLU and to some extent in the larger community.

> It was a great honour to be witness to the remarkable pedagogical example of moral and intellectual engagement afforded by George Aditjondro himself. Thanks George.
>
> **– Peter Eglin, Wilfrid Laurier University**

George's invitation to come to Laurier took advantage of his planned presence in Canada as part of Team Timor, but was not itself an integral part of the overall campaign, chiefly because there is no organized presence of ETAN in K-W. Nevertheless, the ground had been prepared by local efforts at the university to draw attention to the East Timor genocide in light of Canada's role in hosting the APEC meetings. Two feature articles, one on the genocide, the other on the challenge to university academics represented by Suharto's presence at APEC on UBC's campus, had appeared in the *Cord* (WLU's student newspaper) on October 22. Letters then appeared in three of the next four issues, the last of which also included a write-up on George's lecture. Furthermore, Eglin had raised the question of Canadian academics' responsibility to respond forcefully to Suharto's planned presence at APEC at WLU's Senate meeting of September 25. This occasioned some lively discussion and, although a motion enjoining the President to act to bring pressure on the Attorney-General to arrest Suharto was defeated, the issue remained live through the weeks leading up to George's visit.

Taking up the President's challenge to submit an op-ed to the *Globe and Mail*, Eglin copied the submission to the entire Senate membership (and elsewhere). Nothing visible came of the submission (no reply from the *Globe*) or of the distribution (although Eglin was fortunate to get on Commentary on CBC Radio 1 on November 21). However, when Eglin needed $250 to subsidize flying to Ottawa for the Suharto "trial" the

President coughed up. And when money was needed to fly George in, pay for dinner (for four) and lunch (for twenty), and grace him with a $300 honourarium, the administration was forthcoming.

Half a dozen students, alerted to the issue through Eglin's Human Rights course and/or the campus publicity, volunteered to do the legwork publicizing George's visit. Connected people at the Universities of Waterloo and Guelph were invited to attend, and notices went out to the community, including Global Community Centre, via press, radio and poster, and were distributed at UW by WPIRG thanks to Daryl Novak. On WLU campus, sympathetic faculty in Sociology, Development and International Studies, and Political Science brought their classes. As a result, one of the largest lecture theatres on campus was virtually full (200+) for the talk. It was a great lecture, richly informed, usefully illustrated and drawing many questions from the audience. The lecture theatre is actually in the School of Business and Economics (SBE) building, and so the location was thoroughly appropriate. Given, however, the prominence of SBE in forming the ethos of WLU it was not perhaps surprising that most of the questions failed to engage the matter of what faculty and students right there and then might feel moved to do given the huge opportunity represented by APEC and Suharto's own presence in the country.

The lecture was video-taped and remains on campus as a resource. Plans to have George interviewed by Marc Xuereb for his 'Special Interests Radio' program on community radio station CKWR fell through when the program was cancelled by the station's board (because he had 'offended local business' by suggesting at the end of a program on The Ogoni of Nigeria and Shell that listeners might consider boycotting their local Shell station). The Record did not send a reporter, and the local Baton TV station, CKCO, did not show up.

The legacy of the visit is difficult to assess. I am confident that, largely thanks to George's own enthusiasm and commitment, E.T. has found firm supporters in Jennifer Clarke, Christine Gergich, Michelle Regan, Christine Beecraft, and Christine Korber, who are all Laurier students, and Jennifer Kwik, a student from UW. Christine Korber did up the poster and Jenn Clarke and Christine Gergich did the writing in the *Cord*. These are all fourth-year students soon to graduate, however, and ones whose moral and social consciences extend to other matters. I am very proud of them, and very grateful for their work, but it is true that we still do not have an ETAN chapter here.

Thanks also go to the Laurier Lecture Committee, the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, the Co-ordinator of Development and International Studies, the Dean of Arts and Science and President Bob Rosehart, all of WLU, for their ready financial support. I would like to thank Kerry Pither for her remarkable organizational energy and unstinting efforts in helping make George's visit to Laurier a real possibility (and for finding the other half of my fare for the Ottawa trip).

Note: several news articles from Waterloo are included in the campaign materials section of this report.

November 14th to 16th: Windsor

Aviano Faria travelled to Windsor accompanied by Abé Barreto Soares. Abé sent this report about their visit.

On Friday, November 14th Aviano and I attended a pot-luck dinner, and cooked two Timorese dishes for the event. About thirteen volunteers came to meet with us and talk at this social event. The dinner was held at the offices of the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG). Elaine's film, "Bitter Paradise: The Sell-Out of East Timor" was screened.

On Saturday, November 15th, as part of the "National Day of Protest for East Timor and Indonesia, ETAN/OPIRG members had organized a talk at the University of Windsor. Unfortunately, perhaps because of poor weather, only a small number of people attended. Aviano spoke and I accompanied him to help with English.

On Sunday at noon of 16 November, as part of the "National Day of Prayer for East Timor," Aviano and I attended a Catholic mass celebrated at the church of Holy Names. The priest celebrating the mass introduced us to the congregation at the beginning of the mass and spoke at length about East Timor during the homily. He asked the congregation to pray for the people of East Timor in their struggle for peace, justice and freedom. The priest has been quite familiar with the issue of East Timor for a long time. At the end of the mass, Aviano and I stood at the entrance to the church to speak to members of congregation as they left.

Unfortunately, there was no news coverage of our visit. Thanks from Aviano and I to the organizers in Windsor.

> This campaign made our issue real for Canadians. We were like family — speaking our own language, singing and dancing in our own culture. It was a really amazing feeling to be reunited with other East Timorese and Indonesian friends. Having Indonesian friends in the Team Timor campaign made me feel that we East Timorese are not alone in our struggle. With Team Timor, I felt a great joy and a sense I could kill my feeling of loneliness. I felt very motivated.
>
> ***– Abé Barreto Soares***

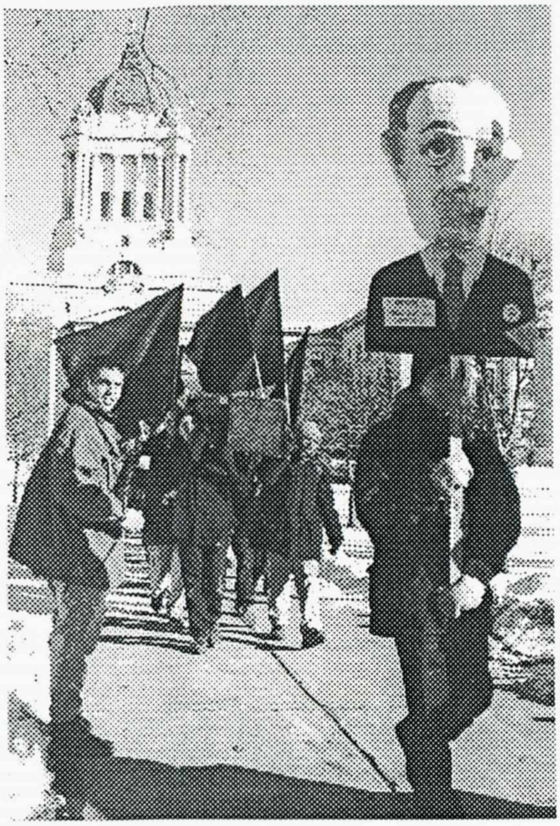
November 14th – 16th: Winnipeg

José Amorim Dias travelled to Winnipeg. ETAN member Louise Chernetz wrote about his visit:

On Friday, November 14th José spoke at the University of Winnipeg to an audience of about 40 people. That evening, ETAN volunteers and supporters gathered for a welcoming pot-luck dinner.

On Saturday, November 15th, as part of the "National Day of Protest for East Timor and Indonesia," ETAN/Winnipeg held a mock funeral procession, carrying black flags and a coffin from Winnipeg's legislative buildings to Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy's constituency office. Unfortunately, he was out of the country, but he certainly heard about our visit! At least 75 people took part, and perhaps up to 100 people participated in the procession. There were at least three newspaper articles, including one editorial on Saturday, that covered Team Timor's visit.

José spoke with passion and conviction to "mourners" and media following our funeral procession from the parliament building to Lloyd Axworthy's constituency office. We received more media coverage than ever before—in fact, we were the lead story on the local TV news that night (see campaign video). The publicity around APEC and the national coverage on Team Timor were also a big boost to our campaign. Thanks to local organizers Kirk, Fiona, Brenda and Ainslie the events were well planned and supported and the media was out.

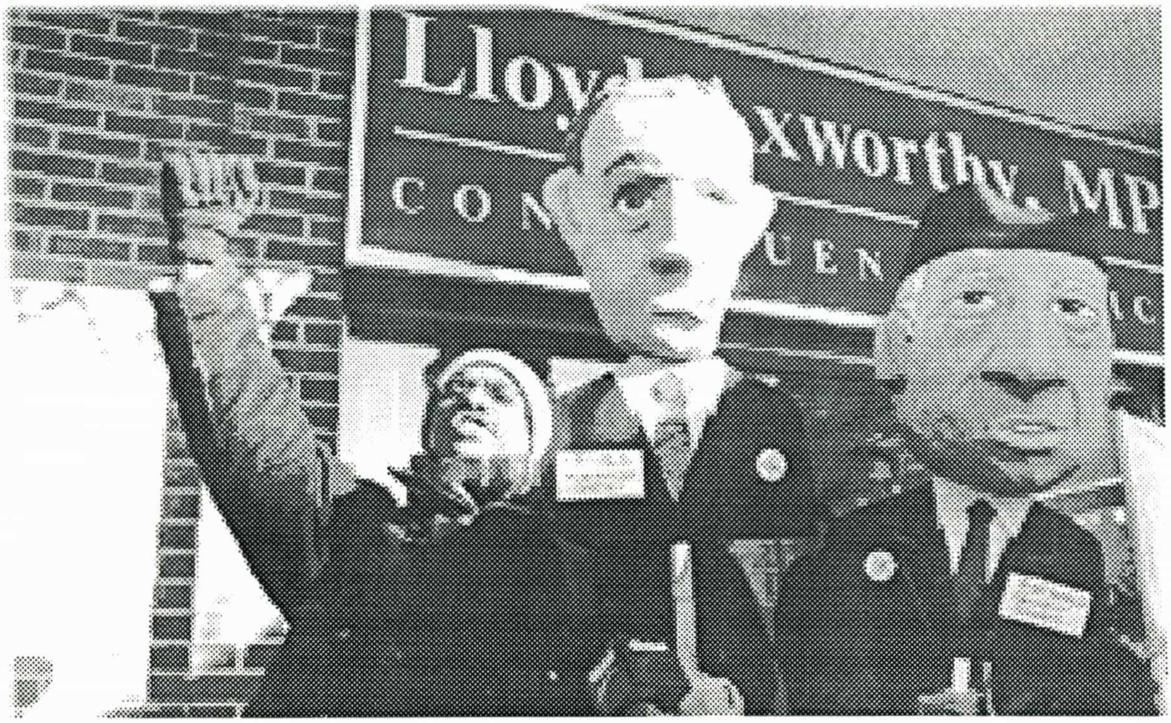


ETAN Winnipeg's November 15th protest

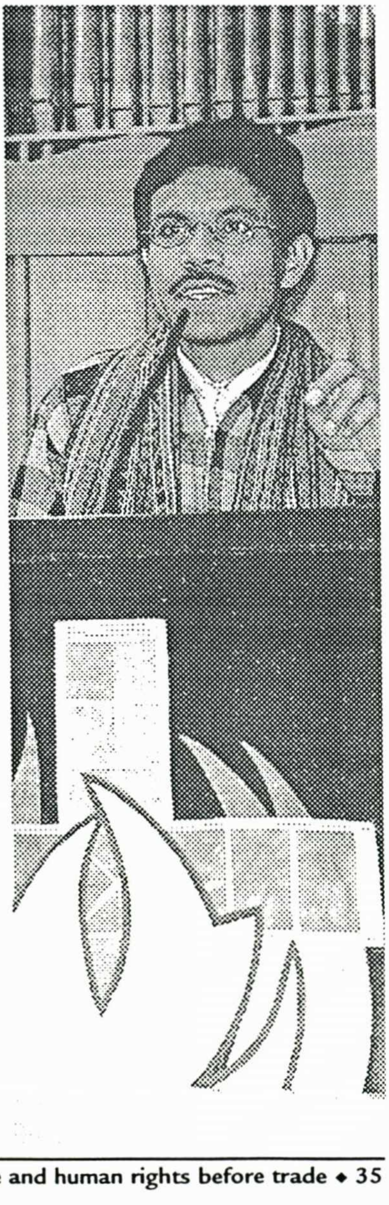
> "We were particularly struck by the number of journalists who showed up at our events, and the number of people who came out over the weekend. There was a lot of interest - obviously generated by the national scope of the campaign.
>
> **ETAN Winnipeg volunteer**
>
> **Kirk King.**

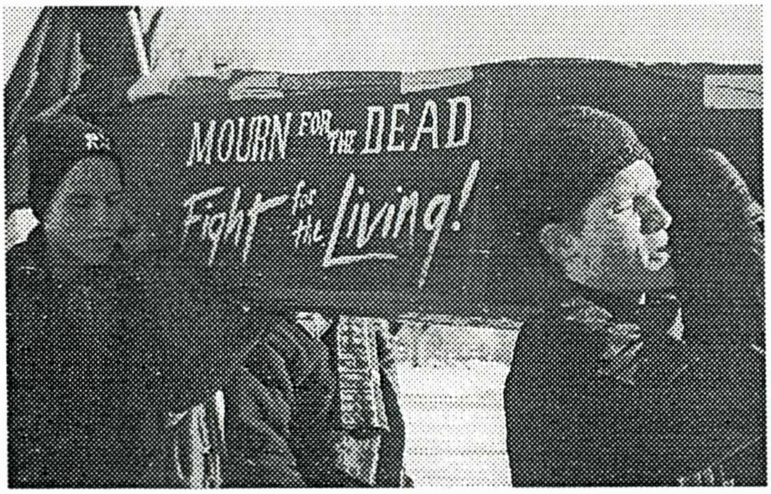
On Sunday, as part of the "National Day of Prayer for East Timor," José spoke at Sturgeon Creek United Church to a large audience and did a terrific presentation — his seminary work came in handy. We had many positive remarks following. He was a wonderful asset to our campaign here.

Note: media articles from Winnipeg are included in the campaign materials section.


Lloy
xworthy, MP
CON
UEN

José Amorim Dias in front of Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy's constituency office (above) and speaking at Sturgeon Creek United Church (right). Winnipeg demonstrators carry a symbolic coffin (below) and ETAN Winnipeg's campaign organizers (bottom).




MOURN FOR THE DEAD
Fight for the Living!

November 14th – 16th: Regina

João Dias travelled to Regina, Saskatchewan on Thursday, November 13th, where he was hosted by the Regina chapter of ETAN, called "RETAN." RETAN members Susan and Sarah McQuarrie sent us information about João's visit.

RETAN concentrated on media work on November 14th, and João was interviewed on CBC radio's "Current Affairs" show. The interview aired the following Tuesday morning as part of their APEC coverage. That afternoon he met with the Roman Catholic Diocesan Social Justice coordinator, Bert Pitzel, who was given materials about João and the upcoming day of action. RETAN also gave its media kit to reporter Frank Flegel from the *Prairie Messenger*, a paper which has written articles on East Timor before.

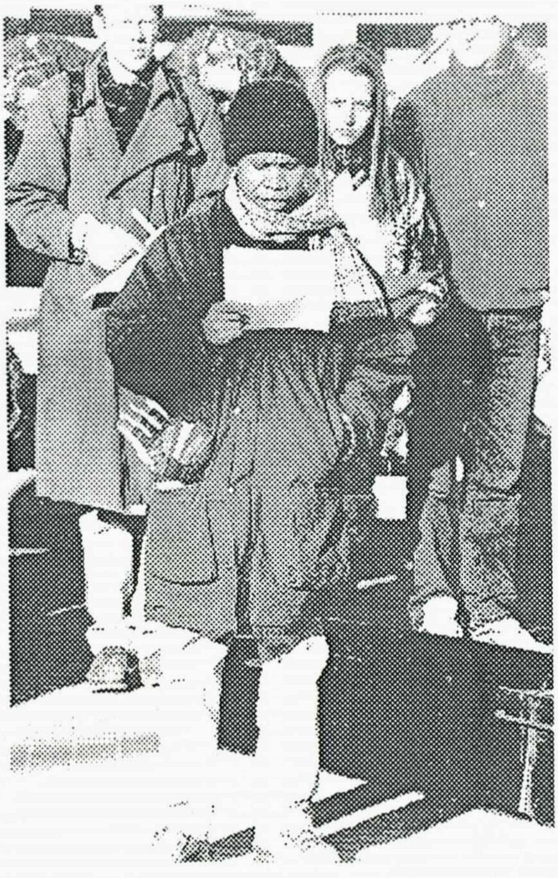
November 15th: National Day of Protest for East Timor and Indonesia

João and Sarah started the day with interviews by the *Leader-Post* (Regina's only daily newspaper) and by the University of Regina's newspaper, *The Carillon*.

That afternoon RETAN held a candlelight vigil and acted out a drama in memory of the Dili Massacre in front of the Victoria Park cenotaph (war memorial). Sarah started the event by introducing João, who spoke about his memories of November 12, 1991. Following his talk, RETAN members and supporters acted out a drama to commemorate those killed in East Timor. Standing in front of a casket, each person read a sentence about who they represented. After each person spoke, RETAN member Keith Lee, representing an Indonesian soldier, pointed his "gun" at them, and they covered their candle with a red shroud (an effective visual in the daylight) and dropped it into casket. The very last speaker represented hope, and did not shroud her candle.

RETAN member James Gauthier ended with a few words encouraging people to act by speaking to their friends, neighbours, families and elected officials about what they had heard. João have a heartfelt thank you and a plea for continued solidarity from our group.

After the vigil, the Suharto t-shirts were sold, and RETAN members were



João Dias speaks to Regina's Nov. 15 demonstration.

interviewed by the *Prairie Messenger* and CBC news. Coverage appeared on the hourly news broadcasts on CBC Radio on Sunday morning. There was also a story in the Regina *Leader-Post* and the *Prairie Messenger*. About thirty people took part in the vigil and about five photographers were present. Though a larger turnout would have been preferable, we felt that, on the whole, we were fairly successful – considering that much of our resources had been spent a week earlier on a fund-raiser for our group, and on arranging media coverage for this event.

November 16th: Prayers for East Timor

To encourage local church participation in the campaign, RETAN mailed out about 55 letters to churches in Regina, telling them about the situation in East Timor and asking them to remember in their prayers the massacred people of East Timor and those who work for peace, including Bishop Belo and José Ramos Horta. The churches that received these were Roman Catholic, Anglican, United, Lutheran, Baptist and Mennonite, as we thought would be the most likely to comply with our request.

Two weeks earlier, RETAN also sent posters, bulletin inserts and announcements about our November 8 fund-raiser to 16 Roman Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran and United churches. On Sunday, November 16th, João and RETAN members went to St. Peter's Catholic Church and introduced João to the priest after the mass. He was quite welcoming to João. That week, the St. Peter's parish newsletter devoted a paragraph to East Timor, and also contained a request to parishioners to remember the East Timorese people, Bishop Belo and other peacemakers in their prayers.

Note: see campaign materials for news coverage.

Drama to commemorate those killed in East Timor

I represent all the mothers who were killed at the Dili Massacre

I represent all the mothers whose children were killed at the Dili Massacre.

I represent all the fathers who were killed at the Dili Massacre.

I represent all the fathers whose children were killed at the Dili Massacre.

I represent all the children who were killed at the Dili Massacre.

I represent all the children whose mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters were killed at the Dili Massacre.

I represent all the wives whose husbands were killed at the Dili Massacre.

I represent all the husbands whose wives were killed at the Dili Massacre.

I represent all the journalists killed at the Dili Massacre.

I represent all the Catholic priests tortured at the time of the Dili Massacre.

I represent teachers killed or forbidden to teach the truth about the Dili Massacre.

I represent hope – the hope that comes from international solidarity of all people who will continue to speak the truth in the face of power – in the face of human rights violations. We, the brothers and sisters of each other around the world, will never be silenced.

November 14th – 16th: Calgary and Edmonton Alberta

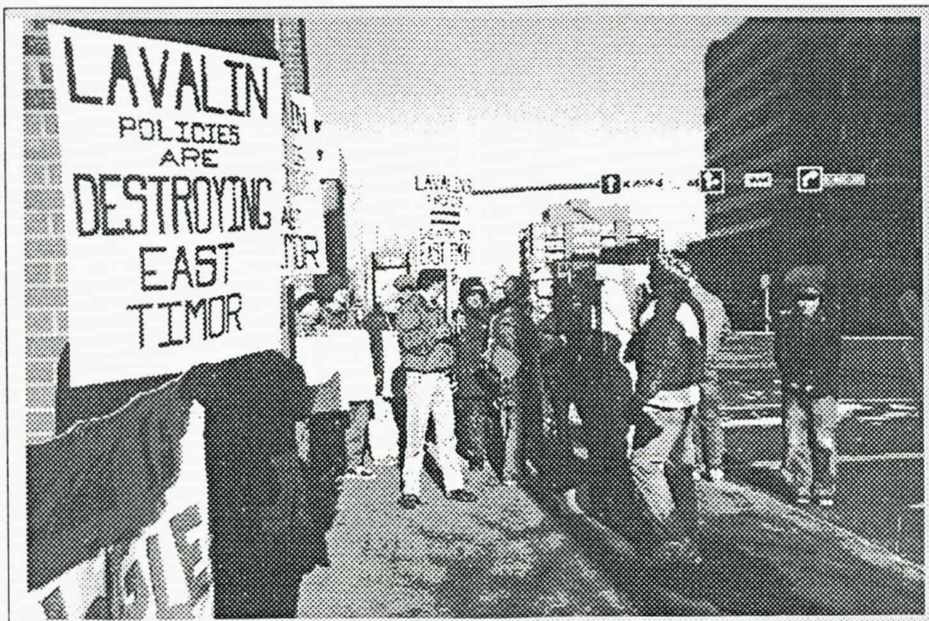
Céu Brites and Dolly Ribeiro travelled to both Calgary and Edmonton, the province of Alberta's two biggest cities. Events in Calgary were organized by ETAN volunteers and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers Calgary local women's committee. CUPW member and ETAN-supporter Joan Thomson sent us information on their visit:

On Friday, November 14th, Céu and Dolly participated and spoke at a lunch time demonstration in front of SNC Lavalin's national office, a company which has invested millions in Indonesia. About 30 people participated. We stood at the entrance to the building, and using a bullhorn, explained why we chose to demonstrate at SNC Lavalin's offices. ETAN/Calgary volunteer Rick Collier gave a speech on genocide, and then we introduced Dolly and Céu. Their comments were well received, with the audience listening intently. We all chanted slogans demanding that Indonesia get out of East Timor, and SNC Lavalin get out of Indonesia.

Céu and Dolly travelled to Edmonton after the rally. Ramon Antipan, a CUPW member and representative from the Alberta Federation of Labour's International Solidarity Committee organized the visit.

That day, the Alberta Federation of Labour put out a news release to publicise their visit. On Friday evening, Céu and Dolly spoke at a forum co-sponsored by the University of Alberta's International Centre, ETAN, and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers.

On Saturday, they attended a brunch meeting with the Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL), where they also met with the AFL's Women's Committee. As a result of these meetings, Linda Robinson wrote a two page article in the AFL's newspaper, *Labour News,*



Calgary labour and human rights activists demonstrate in front of SNC Lavalin, a major investor in Indonesia.

which is distributed to thousands of union members all over Alberta.

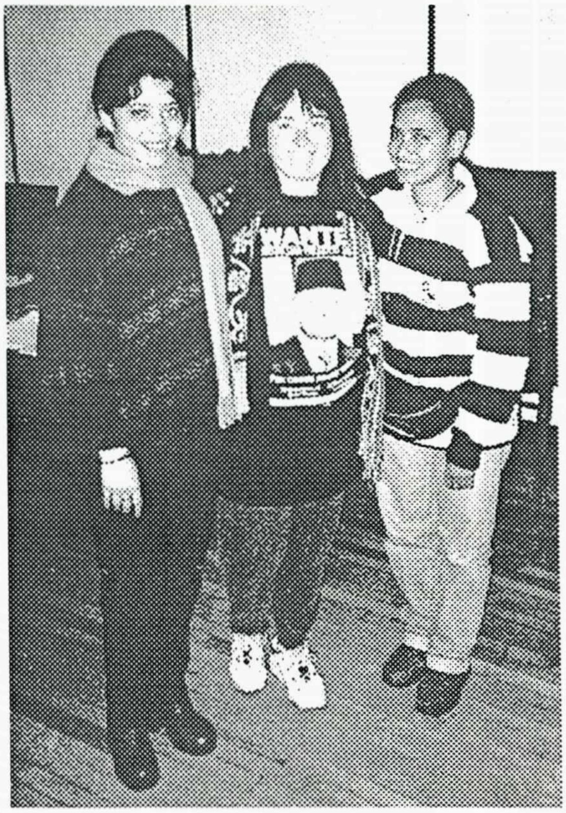
On Saturday evening, as part of the "National Day of Protest for East Timor and Indonesia," Céu and Dolly returned to Calgary for an event at the Carpenters' Hall, where about thirty people gathered to watch Elaine Brière film and hear our guests speak.

On Sunday, November 16th, as part of the "National Day of Prayer for East Timor," Céu and Dolly attended a mass at St. Mary's Cathedral, where prayers were said for East Timor. Céu and Dolly were accompanied by ETAN volunteer Paul Salim. At the church, Céu and Dolly met with Linda Schultz of the Catholic Pastoral Centre.

In the afternoon on Sunday, Céu and Dolly returned to Carpenter's Hall to attend and speak at a public forum on APEC, and spoke alongside a former Filipino mine worker. All the guests gave stirring accounts of their experiences.

Despite our work on press releases and reminders, we did not have any mainstream media attend our events, but the University of Calgary radio station did cover our event on Saturday evening.

The Calgary Local CUPW Women's Committee raised the money to cover all of the expenses of Céu and Dolly's stay in Calgary through the sale of t-shirts.



Joan Thomson (middle) with Céu Brites and Josefina Ribeiro. She would meet up with them again in Vancouver as a CUPW delegate to the Women's Conference against APEC.

Note: please see posters, news releases and Labour News article in the campaign materials section of this report.

November 15th and 16th: Victoria

George Aditjondro flew from Waterloo to Victoria, British Columbia, where he participated in the South Pacific Peoples' Foundation conference before flying to Vancouver on Sunday night. Stuart from the foundation sent us this report on George's contribution to their conference:

Our conference drew almost 100 people and was a big success. Some participants who have attended previous conferences even rated this one as the best ever. George was a big hit and made a major contribution to the conference. We deeply appreciate ETAN making him available. George also said that he appreciated the opportunity to attend, present and network.

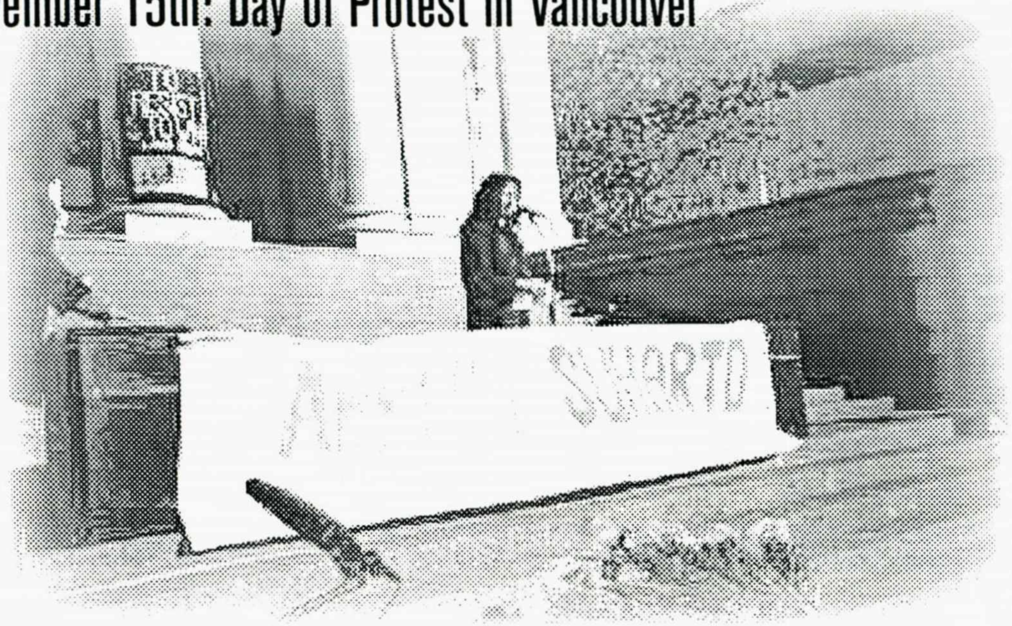
George arrived too late to attend the opening of the conference on Friday evening, but on Saturday, he served as a resource person for a several hours in a workshop on mining in the Pacific. He focused his presentation on the Freeport mine in West Papua (Irian Jaya). Workshop participants found his presentation very helpful to their discussions.

On Sunday, we had intended to have a workshop of perhaps two hours on Indonesia and East Timor for those who wanted to attend. It was to have George as a resource person and Andrea Needham, one of the UK Ploughshares women who bashed up the fighter jet being sold to Indonesia (as a protest against Indonesia's occupation of East Timor).

Given the huge interest from conference participants, it turned into an almost 4 hour session with all of the conference participants – presentations followed by questions and discussion. Several participants also worked in the afternoon to prepare a petition and letter to Chrétien about Indonesia & East Timor.

Note: the letter and petition referred to by Stuart are included in the campaign materials section of this report.

November 15th: Day of Protest in Vancouver



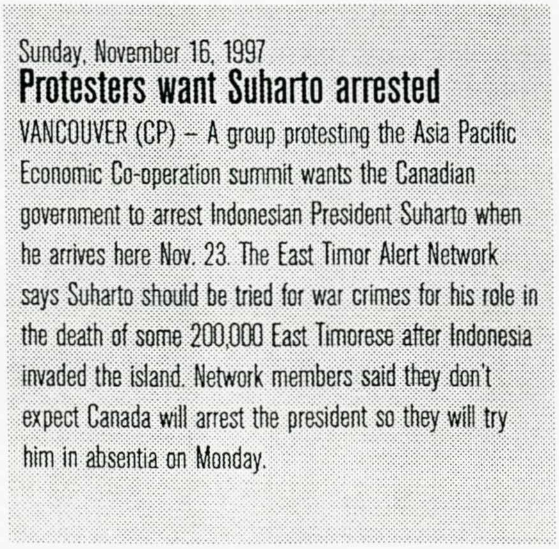
Ines Almeida (above) was the first to arrive in Vancouver, just in time for the "National Day of Protest for East Timor and Indonesia" on November 15th. ETAN /Vancouver member Gabor Melli wrote the following report on events in Vancouver from November 15th to 17th.

The Team Timor campaign had a very positive impact in Vancouver. Team Timor's presence from the protest on the 15th, the trial on the 17th and throughout the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference, made Vancouverites more aware than ever about the plight of the East Timorese and about the Canadian government's complicity in these crimes.

On November 15th, as part of the "National Day of Protest for East Timor and Indonesia," ETAN/Vancouver held a rally which started at noon with speeches at the Art Gallery, and then proceeded down Robson Street to the Indonesian Consulate. We lay flowers on the consulate's steps in memory of the East Timorese who have suffered under the Indonesian occupation.

Television and radio stations covered the rally. They highlighted an incident which occurred at the Indonesian consulate — Ines Almeida questioned an Indonesian consulate staff person who had followed her all morning taking pictures.

On November 16th the other members of Team Timor arrived in Vancouver and gathered to prepare their testimonies for the next day.



Sunday, November 16, 1997

Protesters want Suharto arrested

VANCOUVER (CP) – A group protesting the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation summit wants the Canadian government to arrest Indonesian President Suharto when he arrives here Nov. 23. The East Timor Alert Network says Suharto should be tried for war crimes for his role in the death of some 200,000 East Timorese after Indonesia invaded the island. Network members said they don't expect Canada will arrest the president so they will try him in absentia on Monday.

November 17th: Suharto on trial in Vancouver

VOICES EAST TIMOR
SUHARTO TRIAL

Voices of East Timor: Suharto on Trial

Vancouver's trial was held on Monday, November 17th from 9 am until 5 pm at the University of British Columbia's Student Union Building Auditorium. Once again, there were many journalists there, who took advantage of a delay in the morning to interview our guests.

ETAN volunteer **Jaggi Singh** moderated the trial. He opened with an overview of the trial and an introduction of the twelve members on the citizen's jury.

Next, Member of Parliament **Svend Robinson** described the Canadian government's past and ongoing complicity with the crimes of the Indonesian government. He condemned the Canadian government's ongoing negotiations with Indonesia around military training. He also condemned the Canadian government's welcoming of Suharto - especially in light of the powers afforded to the government under the Canadian Immigration Act, and sections of the criminal code pertaining specifically to war criminals and human rights abusers.

The Timorese and Indonesian speakers took the floor, and testified against Suharto. Their statements were incredibly powerful and deeply affected the audience of about 100. Based on this testimony the jury found there was sufficient evidence to charge Suharto with crimes against humanity. The event concluded with a frank discussion about the future of East Timor.

This was the last evening that all of Team Timor would be together in Canada, so ETAN/Vancouver organized a social at a venue called "La Quena." With Abé and Aloz's music and a surprise visit by Nobel Peace Prize recipient José Ramos Horta, the mood was very festive.

Aviano and Bella at La Quena.

> It was very good to see some Indonesians who came to attend the Peoples' Summit Meeting (APEC counter-conference), among others Tohap Simanungkalit, one of the chairpersons of the banned SBSI trade union. He came to the trial and to the social that night.
>
> **- Jusfiq Hadjar**

November 18 to 23: Team Timor at the Peoples' Summit

Bella, Dolly, Céu, Ines and Solana singing in Tetum for over 600 women at the Second International Women's Conference Against APEC

Before our guests arrived in Canada, we worked for over a month with the organizers of the Peoples Summit on APEC issue forums to ensure that East Timor would be well represented at the conference. With hundreds of representatives of women's groups, trade unions, churches and human rights groups there, this was an excellent opportunity for our guests to network and build solidarity.

November 18th:

On November 18th, Bella, Ines, Céu, Solana and Dolly attended the Second International Women's Conference Against APEC. Bella wrote about their experience there:

The conference was attended by more than 500 Canadian women, plus about 100 international guests – over 600 women. I had the honour to speak to them on a panel which also included women from Bangladesh, Mexico, Korea and Malaysia, as well as a woman representing First Nations people in Canada. Ines Almeida helped me prepare for the panel – I was hard on myself because I wanted to set a good example for my sisters from East Timor – especially Dolly and Solana – who had shown me their interest in playing a stronger role in our struggle. I shortened my presentation so that I would have time to introduce my Timorese sisters to the audience.

There were a couple of very special moments that day, through which everyone there will remember East Timor. One was when the five of us sang a song in Tetum called "O hele O hela" for everyone. We had also brought three banners with us as a gift from ETAN to the conference organizers. They were banners we used in an anti-APEC demonstration in Ottawa in September, which were painted by ETAN/Ottawa member Tracey Lauriault. They were purple, pink and white, and one was about 50 feet long, saying "Not for us! APEC Non merci!"

Solana, Céu, Ines, Dolly and I presented the banner to the Vice-President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women. Everyone stood up and applauded for five minutes while we returned to our seats. After the meeting as we went out, many women were lined up to speak to us personally.

NOT FOR US! APEC NON MERCI !
WE OPPOSE APEC!

Ines, Bella and Céu stand with CUPW members Marian Pollack (middle) and Karen Urchak (right) under the banners donated by ETAN.

many women were lined up to speak to us personally.

I felt very proud at that moment, because my sisters could see how hard I have worked in Canada, and how many allies we have here. I will never forget how Ines turned to me and said, "Bella, you and ETAN have moved mountains here!"

Meanwhile, João and Aviano gave an excellent telephone interview to *Globe and Mail* reporter Paul Knox, and that afternoon José Dias bid farewell to his brother and friends, and left Canada.

In the evening, ETAN/Vancouver member Adam Schachhuber hosted a good-bye party for those who were leaving. The Timorese men cooked a meal for everyone.

When Bella and her sisters from East Timor sang their song, it was definitely the highlight of the conference. Many women commented on how powerful and strong these Timorese women seemed."
Karen Urchak,
CUPW delegate to the conference.

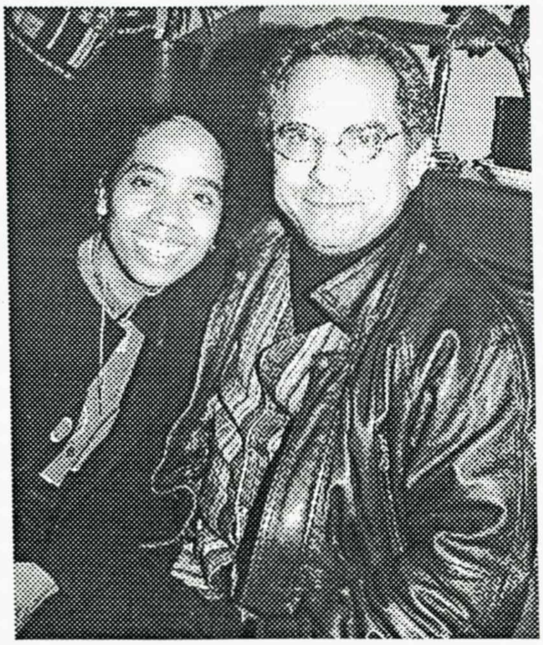
November 19th: Peoples' Summit opening ceremonies

On November 19th, after Ines, Dolly, Céu, Solana and Aviano left Canada, Bella, Tomás, João, Alfredo, Abé, George and Jusfiq met at the Opening Ceremonies of the Peoples' Summit Against APEC. José Ramos Horta was the key note speaker. For Bella this was an important night, which gave her an opportunity to introduce Jusfiq, George, and all the Timorese, including José, to many leaders of the Canadian social justice movement. A local television station interviewed Abé when the session opened, asking his opinion about the Peoples' Summit.

British Columbia Premier Glen Clark, Canadian Labour Congress President Bob White, Indonesian activist Tati Krisnawaty and José Ramos Horta joined to make a strong public condemnation of Indonesia's human rights record.

> **This was a big night for us. We Timorese were very happy to see what a warm welcome everyone gave to José Ramos Horta when he took the stage — we were surrounded by thousands of friends who really know and care about East Timor!**
>
> ***– João António Dias***

That night José Ramos Horta also gave Bella the pictures of Timorese women who had been tortured, and they began to plan how best to publicize them.



Isabel Galhos and José Ramos Horta in Vancouver

November 20th

On November 20, the media ran several stories publicising threats by Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister, Ali Alatas. The *Vancouver Province* ran a story called "Don't parade on Suharto's reign," quoting Alatas warning that his government would "take measures" against "Indonesian nationals" who spoke out in Vancouver. Of course the Timorese and Indonesians continued their work despite these threats and ongoing harassment by Indonesian government agents in Vancouver.

Jusfiq and George joined other Indonesians who gathered to discuss how to respond to the threats, and appointed George and Tati Krisnawaty to represent them at a news conference, where they condemned Alatas' statements. Jusfiq was also interviewed on this subject by television reporters that morning.

Later that day Jusfiq and George attended a Peoples' Summit issue forum called "Civil Society and Labour

Rights in Indonesia: Advocacy and Networking for Democracy." At this forum, Jusfiq pointed out that most of the Indonesians there, because of their culture, would not feel comfortable pressuring the Canadian government to ensure their safety when they returned home to Indonesia. Jusfiq appealed to people at the forum to pressure the Canadian government to guarantee their safety.

Meanwhile, that morning Bella met with Natacha Meden, José Ramos Horta's assistant, to prepare for a news conference to release the torture photos at 11 am. Joan Grant-Cummings, President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC), participated. The story was covered on CBC National Television news, radio, as well as in several newspapers. On many stations it was played alongside coverage of the release of the photos in Australia (see campaign video). The Indonesian government's response was to deny the authenticity of the photos, and some television journalists also interviewed Abé on this question.

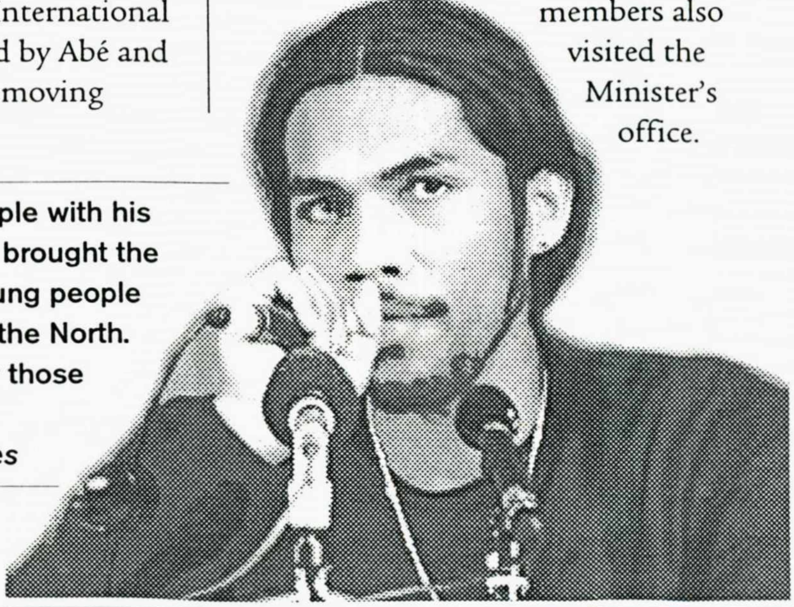
Meanwhile, Tomás Gandara attended and spoke at the Amnesty International Youth Forum, accompanied by Abé and Alfredo. Tomás gave a very moving speech, and received a standing ovation from the audience of about 100 youth.

João Dias received the same enthusiastic response when he spoke that afternoon at the "End the Arms Race" forum on the Canadian arms trade to the Asia Pacific, along with Andrea Needham, one of the women from the UK who had "grounded a Hawk with a hammer" for East Timor. João spoke about the Indonesian military's attempts to eliminate and isolate the East Timorese people, and about the November 12, 1991 massacre. Following João's talk people lined up to speak to him and show their support.

That evening, the Timorese and some other Indonesian activists visiting Canada for the Peoples' Summit got together for a night of discussion, singing and socializing.

Meanwhile, in Ottawa, ETAN tried to add to the pressure on the Immigration Minister Lucienne Robillard to bar Suharto from entering Canada. An "Urgent Action" was distributed to supporters, who phoned and faxed the Immigration Minister. Local ETAN/Ottawa members also visited the Minister's office.

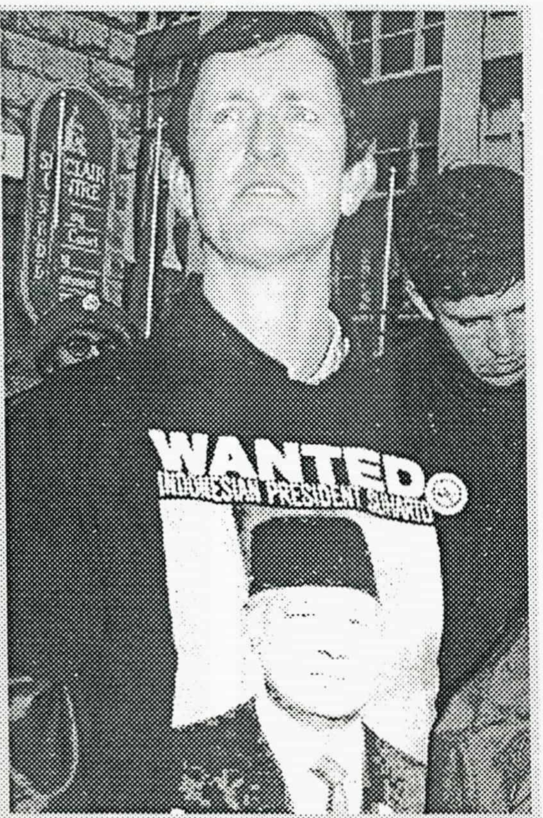
> **Tomás really moved people with his personal story. He really brought the reality of suffering of young people in the South to those in the North. It was an eye-opener for those youth.**
>
> ***- Abé Barreto Soares***



November 21st

On November 21st, Professor Peter Eglin read a "commentary" on CBC National Radio. João, Bella and Alfredo attended the Amnesty International Human Rights Forum to hear other speakers discuss the impact of APEC on peoples in many countries. João was interviewed by CITV in Portuguese, and by the University of British Columbia's radio station.

In the afternoon, João, Alfredo and Tomás went to the "Workers Rights and Democratic Development" forum organized by the Canadian Labour Congress and the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development. George and Jusfiq continued with the conference on Indonesia, while media interviewed Bella all day.



NDP Member of Parliament Svend Robinson at the Peoples' March for Social Justice on November 23rd.

November 22nd

On November 22nd, everyone gathered at the Peoples' Summit Plenary. Alfredo, João, Tomás, Bella and Abé attended. This was a very useful session because each of the issue forums was summarized by delegates. A number of the delegates highlighted East Timor in their interventions, particularly those who heard Tomás speak at the youth forum on the 20th.

In the evening, they gathered at the Peoples' Summit cultural event. "That evening, at the Peoples' Summit cultural night, Aloz and I were invited to sing and we were joined by pro-democracy Indonesian activists. I felt a great solidarity with them – being in the same boat – struggling for a real change in East Timor and Indonesia," said Abé.

November 23rd

On November 23rd João was interviewed by Kali Jones of Independent Community Television (ICTV). Bella had an interview with CBC Television. The rest of the Timorese gathered to join the "People's March for Social Justice." Abé, Tomás, João and ETAN member Aloz sang Timorese songs at the rally.

I envy what I saw in Canada. Everywhere we went you could see that ETAN has built strong alliances with social justice groups - especially labour and women's groups. This is something we have been trying to achieve in Europe for over 25 years, and so far with much less success!

– Jusfiq Hadjar

November 24th to 26th:

Following the Peoples Summit, Team Timor campaigners Bella, João, Abé, Tomás, Alfredo and Jusfiq remained in Vancouver to participate in activities organized by ETAN/Vancouver, APEC Alert and NO! To APEC.

November 24th:

On Monday, November 24th, Ali Alatas, in what might be seen as a desperate move, held a news conference to urge Canadian media to be "balanced" when reporting on human rights abuses in East Timor.

Meanwhile, all of the Timorese went to a "Teach-In" at the University of British Columbia. Bella and Abé spoke at this event, where there were at least 400 students in the audience. João says he and the others found this very informative, and they learned a lot about APEC and globalization there.

ETAN/Vancouver member Jaggi Singh was arrested that day. He was also arrested a few days after the Nov. 17th trial, but over 300 people had protested at the police station until he was released. His account of how he was arrested on the 24th is very frightening.

> They grabbed me and pushed me to the ground quite violently, saying I was under arrest. They did not show badges, nor their IDs. I resisted their attempts, but I'm not very strong physically, nor am I a violent person. My hands were wrenched behind my back and cuffed tightly. I was trying to scream for help, but my mouth was covered by someone's hands. An unmarked car screeched onto the scene and I was thrown into the back head-first. I was laying on the floor of the car for what seemed like minutes as the car screeched off, with two people in the front. One of these men yelled, "Go, go, go! Let's get the fuck out of here!
>
> **– Jaggi Singh's account of his "arrest"**

"For us this was very exciting – it was the first time for us to be in such a big demonstration and not have to worry about being arrested!" João Dias describes the Peoples March for Social Justice, in Vancouver, November 23rd. Here João and Abé, and ETAN/Calgary member Paul Salim are singing at the demonstration.

That afternoon, all the Timorese joined a "Women Against APEC" event. There were three pro-integration East Timorese men there who tried to provoke a reaction from João, Abé, Bella, Tomás and Alfredo, while Indonesian agents took photographs.

That evening Abé, Jusfiq, Bella, João, Alfredo and Tomás joined other Indonesian participants of People's Summit at a social gathering/dinner at ETAN member Ivan's home. This was another good opportunity for Abé, Bella and João to exchange views with pro-democracy Indonesian activists about East Timor.

November 25th

On the 25th, Bella left for Ottawa, and the rest of the Timorese watched as members and supporters of ETAN/Vancouver and other groups carried out a non-violent civil disobedience – attempting a citizen's arrest of Suharto. Hundreds of demonstrators began the day at a mass meeting, where Jusfiq spoke. The night before, ETAN member David Webster had been arrested by police. Jusfiq had witnessed the arrest, so he spoke about how violently the police treated David, and warned that "fascism is contagious." He told protesters that Indonesians at home would hear about their protest on the internet and through progressive Indonesian journalists and would be grateful for their solidarity.

Then everyone walked as close as they could get to the APEC conference, and divided into two groups – those who would risk arrest by attempting to arrest Suharto, and those who were there just in support. Jusfiq said he was very impressed by the discipline shown by those participating in the civil disobedience – they were peaceful to the end, refusing to respond to the violent treatment by police. At least eight members of ETAN/Vancouver were arrested in this action.

Meanwhile, two Indonesian government agents were also arrested. According to several people who saw them at the protest, they were carrying walkie talkies and wearing face masks, and they tried to provoke other protesters before they were arrested by the RCMP. According to news reports, they were later sent back to Indonesia. The Indonesian government tried more damage control, holding another news conference where Alatas took direct aim at ETAN and Bella Galhos.

November 26th

On November 26th Abé and some local ETAN members bid farewell to Tomás, João, Alfredo and Jusfiq at the airport, and the last of our overseas guests left for home.

> **We were amazed at how many people were willing to risk arrest, by attempting to arrest Suharto. When the police began arresting people and spraying them with pepper-spray – we were terrified. It reminded us of home.**
>
> **– João Dias**

The "Raging Grannies" sing about East Timor to protesters waiting to attempt a citizen's arrest of Suharto.

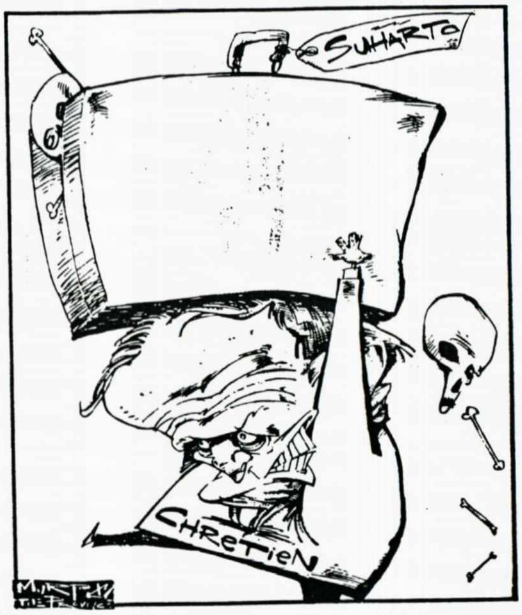
Who's influencing who?

The Canadian government claims it will influence Suharto and his government to respect human rights through trade. Isolation, they say, would only backfire. Canada is even considering a request to train Indonesian police.

This is the same argument the Canadian government used to justify friendly relations with Apartheid South Africa. And, for the last 33 years, we have pumped millions of dollars into Indonesia, and meanwhile Suharto has overseen mass murder in Indonesia, and invasion, occupation and genocide in East Timor.

We look now at declining conditions at home — increased unemployment, shrinking social programs, growing poverty, attacks on basic labour rights, and the recent brutal response to protests against APEC — and see that through trade and dialogue with regimes like Suharto's, the influence is really coming the other way.

On November 20th, the *Vancouver Sun* ran a prescient editorial, reminding the RCMP they "must not turn Vancouver into a temporary mini-police state of the kind that the most odious of their visitors would approve as a watered-down reminder — of though relatively amateurish, much too 'soft,' of course — of the regime they operate at home."



The Vancouver Province's editorial cartoon on November 23rd summed up public opinion quite nicely - portraying Prime Minister Chrétien hauling Suharto's shameful baggage.

Jaggi Singh, a member of ETAN/Vancouver and a key organizer with NO! To APEC, was abducted by plainclothes police while walking through campus. Bogus charges were laid to keep him in custody. Like many others, he was told he would have to sign away his constitutional rights to be released - a statement promising he would not protest the APEC summit. Another man was arrested for holding up a sign saying "Free Speech" along the leaders' motorcade route.

When protesters attempted a citizen's arrest of Suharto on November 25th, they were kicked, pepper-sprayed, and otherwise brutally treated — scenes captured and beamed around the world by media. The Prime Minister's office had ordered the RCMP to keep the protesters out of the sight of Suharto and Jiang Zemin. And, the Prime Minister laughed about it when he was questioned by reporters.

We know our campaign made more people think about East Timor and Indonesia. We hope our campaign also built awareness about the link between globalization and global oppression — as Jusfiq Hadjar put it, "fascism is contageous" — the influence is coming the other way.

Evaluation: Did we meet our objectives?

This was primarily a media campaign – designed to be difficult for journalists and their editors to ignore.

Having so many excellent speakers here at once made this an irresistible "story," but there were other reasons the campaign was so "newsworthy."

Starting the campaign in Ottawa meant easier access to national coverage from the start. The Ottawa trial was covered in several newspapers in several cities across the country. In some cases these were large articles with large pictures. It was also covered on two national television networks and on national radio.

This national coverage was helpful for other ETAN chapters. ETAN/Winnipeg, for example, reported having an easier time attracting journalists to their events because of the national coverage beforehand.

As well, locating the November 12 trial inside the Parliament buildings was a convenient and familiar location for journalists from the parliamentary press gallery – not to mention a very newsworthy venue for putting a dictator and soon-to-be-honoured-state-visitor on "trial!"

The timing of our campaign was also effective. The first week of the campaign coincided with a parliamentary recess, a time when Ottawa-based journalists weren't kept busy by politicians. We also started our campaign before other anti-APEC events began, so we weren't competing with our allies for attention. At the same time, this early start ensured that East Timor and Indonesia were very much a part of the APEC coverage once it began.

Starting the campaign two weeks before Suharto arrived also meant our demand to have him barred – the focus of the campaign – was more realistic and newsworthy. The demand was repeated in several stories and even in the headlines themselves (see coverage of Ottawa trial). Most importantly, it kept the story newsworthy at least until Suharto arrived.

One regret was that we weren't able to finish our guest's biographies and get sample media kits to other ETAN chapters faster. This would have made their pre-event media work easier. But this would have required very lengthy overseas calls, which no-one could afford.

Another regret was that despite our best efforts, we were unable to get the Cable Public Affairs Channel (CPAC) out to record the November 12 trial. Although ETAN did a "home video" of the trial, it would have been nice to have had it professionally recorded and nationally broadcast in full on CPAC.

> **I want to once again congratulate ETAN for its November campaign and especially the event including the trial that took place on Parliament Hill. This was a painful, graphic, but necessary description of what has taken place, and the price people pay to achieve basic human rights, including the right to self-determination.**
>
> **–Bob White, President, Canadian Labour Congress.**

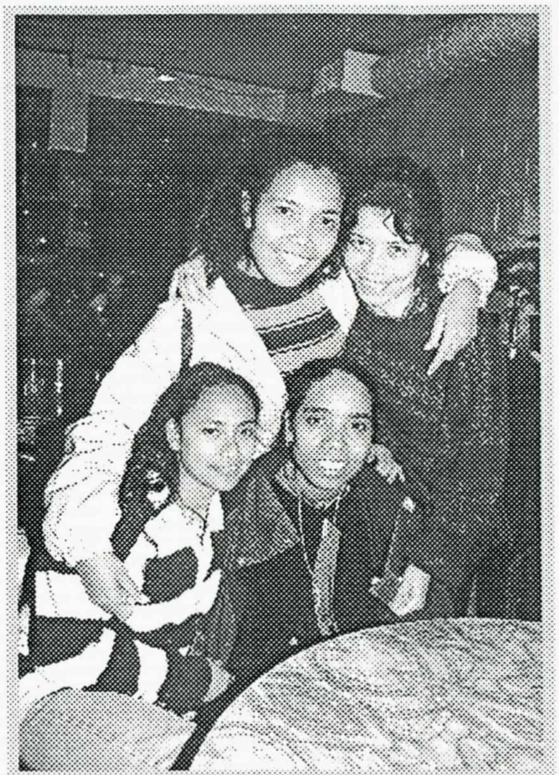
We wanted to use Suharto's visit to Canada to raise more awareness about continuing atrocities in East Timor and Indonesia, and about the moral bankruptcy of Canada's relations with the Indonesian government.

Campaign media coverage wasn't just widespread, but importantly, the coverage was also good in quality. Our guests were incredibly effective speakers, and it was obvious in the coverage that they won the respect of journalists. The trial theme also worked well for us – situating East Timor's tragedy in the realm of "war crimes" and "crimes against humanity" communicated the severity of the situation in East Timor to the public, and certainly developed a lasting and appropriate impression of Suharto.

Much of the media coverage also picked up on Canadian complicity – repeating verbatim our demand that Suharto be barred, and in several instances putting Foreign Affairs Minister Axworthy in the uncomfortable position of defending the government's policy of "constructive engagement" with dictators.

Our preparation work in Ottawa included briefing our guests about Canadian foreign policy, so they would all feel comfortable supporting our demands during their talks. They all addressed Canadian complicity in their presentations across Canada.

In addition to the obvious awareness raised through the media coverage, our guests spoke directly to thousands of people, in many diverse settings – including demonstrations, tribunals, churches, conferences, high schools and universities – in thirteen cities, big and small, from coast to coast in Canada. In a country where only two East Timorese normally speak out, this was very unique, and according to reports from across the country, this has strengthened ETAN's work tremendously.



ETAN's Team Timor campaign really helped to set the public agenda of APEC. By the time the APEC counter-conferences started, the media were already focussed on human rights – Suharto clearly represented evil, and all of APEC was put in a negative light. This was very good for the Peoples' Summit and other counter-events.

– Maude Barlow, National Chairperson, Council of Canadians

We hoped that by having Canadian journalists hearing first-hand from East Timorese and Indonesian dissidents, we might improve the accuracy and increase the frequency of future reporting on Indonesia and East Timor.

> **E[illegible] this week, I went to a luncheon sponsored by the Committee to Protect Journalists for Ahmad Taufik and Andreas Harsono. The American journalists who were there, and who had been in Vancouver, were effusive about how effective ETAN/Canada and others had been in making East Timor part of the public perception of APEC. They said that even the taxi drivers were saying that Suharto shouldn't be allowed into Canada because of his crimes in East Timor.**
>
> **– Charlie Scheiner, ETAN/United States, December 4th, 1997**

We are confident that the campaign worked in this way too. To start with, we certainly reached the very important journalists from the parliamentary news bureau. There was not a dry eye in the house when the Ottawa trial took place – all of the journalists and camera people were visibly shaken. Their news stories, long and detailed, reflected this.

Most of the coverage of this campaign got the facts straight – this is important in Canada – a country where television and radio news hosts have just recently learned to properly pronounce "East Timor."

Most importantly, despite their best attempts, the Indonesian government was not considered a credible source, but our guests were. In fact, the Indonesian government lost a lot of credibility because of their sloppy responses to the campaign and other organizing work around APEC.

We also hoped to contribute to the work of other NGOs trying to increase awareness of and opposition to the social and human costs of APEC.

We have received a lot of positive feedback on this from our allies, who argue that this campaign successfully complimented the work done by other groups opposed to APEC – focussing the media and Canadian public's attention on the negative impacts of trade with dictators, before the dictators started arriving in Vancouver for APEC.

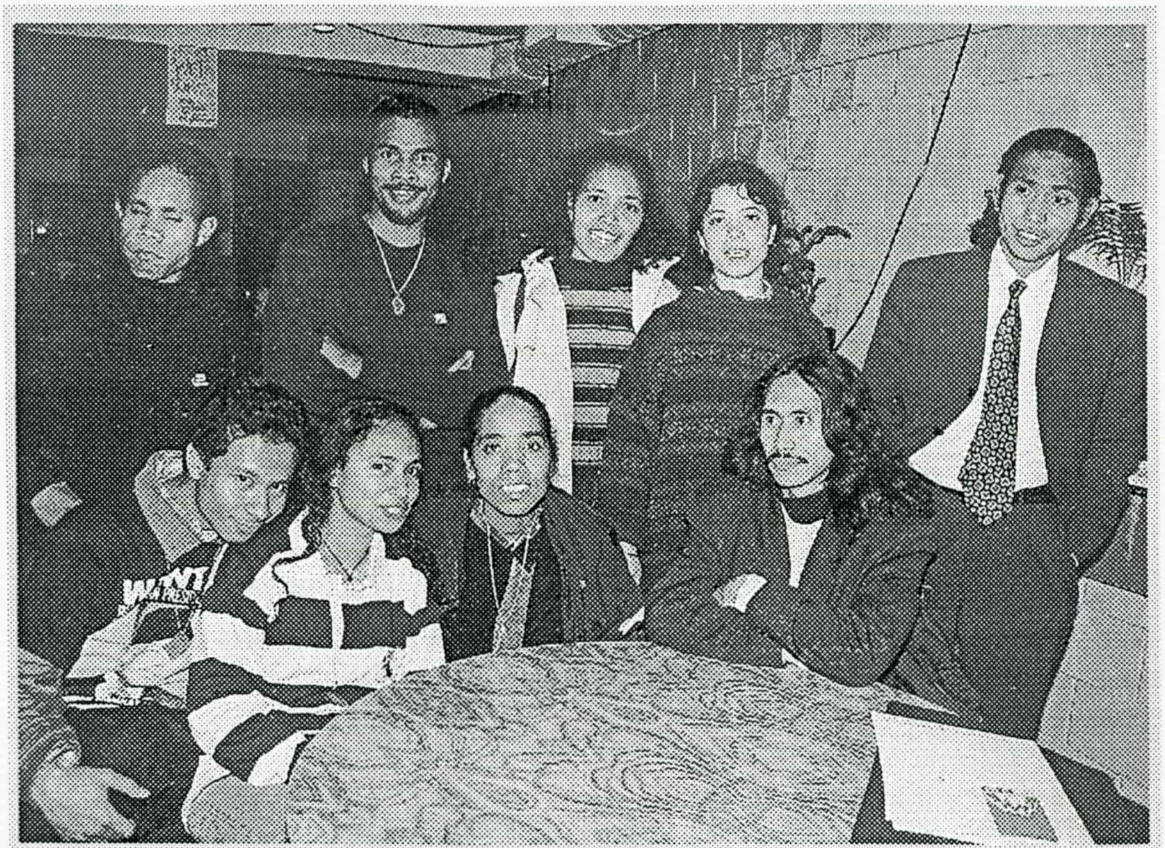
We wanted to build on the work of solidarity groups around the world who have ensured Suharto meets protests wherever he travels.

Besides the fact that Suharto almost didn't come, repeated damage control attempts by the Indonesian government and their attempts to intimidate our guests was a sure sign of our success on this point. The campaign helped ensure Suharto was embarrassed long before APEC even started.

We hoped having East Timorese and Indonesian guests would strengthen ETAN's work, and encourage more people to join this struggle.

ETAN chapters reported successful visits by our guests, and most also reported increased awareness, media coverage and interest as a result. Some of the local groups, Toronto and Montreal in particular, reported that new people expressed interest in joining ETAN because of the campaign.

We have heard a lot of positive feedback from our allies about the incredible impact our guests had at the Peoples' Summit on APEC. Our guests reached out to important allies in ways that we never could have done without them. For this we are particularly thankful to our guests for putting their own lives on hold to stay longer in Canada.



Whether on Parliament Hill in Ottawa or at the site of APEC meetings in Vancouver, these thirteen Timorese refugees captured the hearts and minds of thousands of Canadians who directly heard or read of their torture at the hands of the Suharto regime and its oppressive military that illegally occupies East Timor. The tour successfully merged the issues of the day: physical and cultural genocide in East Timor; exploitation and oppression in Indonesia; corporate trade deals without labour or human rights priorities; and the sordid history or Canadian complicity in all of the above.

— **Ken Luckhardt, Union Representative, CAW**

We wanted our East Timorese guests to participate as more than just speakers in this campaign. It was important to us that this experience enrich their future work.

Our guests are the best judges on this point, and we certainly got the impression from them that through this campaign they gained experience, knowledge and new skills which will help in their future work for East Timor.

They participated in a lot of the planning and preparation – particularly when they worked on their own presentations and public speaking skills as a group. Some of our guests weren't experienced speakers when they began this campaign, and were concerned about their English. But by the time they got up to speak at the podium, they were very, very effective speakers. We hope they felt as self-confident as they appeared.

João Dias was particularly pleased with the preparatory work we did on media skills – he said this was useful while he was in Vancouver. He especially liked learning about "sound bites."

Recommendations:

First, we strongly recommend that group campaigns be carried out in other parts of the world – in Europe, Australia, the United States, Latin America – perhaps a world tour! Following is a list of the advantages – derived from our observations and from comments made by our guests:

- **Skill-sharing:** Each of our guests came to this campaign with different experience and skills. For some, it was their first time travelling to participate in a media campaign. Others were quite experienced. In the end, they all ended up with more skills for future work.
- **Encouraging new spokespeople:** Group campaigning is more accessible for East Timorese youth and women who might be reluctant to travel and participate alone. More Timorese need access to this kind of experience and opportunity to gain skills.
- **Emotional strength:** It was obviously very painful for many of our guests to recall their past in public. But in this campaign, they had each other for support and encouragement.
- **Truer picture of genocide:** Hearing about the oppression in East Timor through the eyes of such a diverse group gave a much clearer picture of how complete the Indonesian government's policy of genocide has been. The combined impact of their testimonies was unforgettable.
- **Strength in solidarity:** Having pro-democracy Indonesian activists work and speak with the East Timorese was crucial as well. This strengthened the impact of the campaign significantly.
- **Empowerment:** As a group, our guests had more control over the campaign – they were involved in the organizing, and even helped write the final report! We built in the time for preparatory work, and the East Timorese were given the space to work on their own. As a result, they said they really felt "ownership" of the campaign.

Secondly, we recommend that if this kind of campaign is organized again, more resources be devoted to organizing international pressure on the hosting country's government. Solidarity groups abroad did offer to protest at Canadian embassies on key dates, but we weren't able to respond quickly enough. Letters were faxed to our Prime Minister from Australia, but more letters and embassy protests would have been a great help.

Thirdly, several of our guests expressed a strong interest in coming back to Canada to participate in our work, gain more organizing skills, and improve their English. ETAN is unable to provide financial support, but ETAN/Ottawa (and possibly other chapters) is able to commit to providing non-financial support – helping to organize accommodations and schooling, arranging access to political education, and providing space for them to lead and learn from the struggle here. The movement for East Timor needs more East Timorese leaders and spokespeople. We highly recommend that financial support be found for a few Timorese to come to Canada.

Campaign materials and news clippings: Ottawa

st Timor
rt Network

National Office:
Box 562, Stn. P
Toronto, ON
M5S 2T1
: (416) 531-5850
fax: (416) 588-5556
e il: etantor@web.net

ETAN/Ottawa
O Box 4115 Stn. E
Ottawa, ON
K1S 5B1
l: (613) 230-4070
email: etanott@web.net

Local ETAN Chapters:
Vancouver
Calgary
Regina
Winnipeg
Windsor
Guelph
Toronto
Ottawa
Montréal
Halifax
St. John's

October 15, 1997

The Honourable Lloyd Axworthy
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0G2

By Facsimilie: (613) 996-3443

Dear Minister Axworthy,

The East Timor Alert Network is organizing an awareness campaign in Canada this November to draw attention to increasing oppression in East Timor and Indonesia. For this campaign, ETAN will be hosting several East Timorese and Indonesians who will be travelling across Canada to speak in a variety of settings.

Before they start their tour, our guests would like very much to have the opportunity to meet with you, to describe their own experiences, and to urge you to support their right to return to their homelands some day. Their stories are tragic, though typical of the terrible experiences endured by the Timorese since the invasion of their country.

Two of our guests, João Dias and José Amorin Dias, were forced to witness their father being tortured to death by Indonesian military when they were very young. Another, Tomas Alfredo, is one of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of East Timorese who as children were abducted by Indonesians during the occupation of their country. He was abducted in 1979 at the age of two, grew up in Indonesia and had no idea that he was East Timorese until he was seventeen years old. He has been living in Lisbon since May 1996, after escaping through the Dutch embassy in Jakarta.

Dr. George J. Aditjondro from Indonesia will also be one of our guests. He was a lecturer in research methodology, the environment and social movements at Satya Wacana University in Central Java until 1995, when he was forced to leave the country after being charged with making derogatory statements about the government. He now lives in exile in Australia, but remains in close contact with the Indonesian democracy movement.

.../2

Our guests will be arriving in Ottawa on November 5 and 6. We understand the House will be in recess during the week of November 10 to 14, and you will likely be in your constituency office then. We would therefore like to appeal to you to please meet with ETAN representatives and our guests on November 6 or 7. All but one of our guests speak English very well.

We will be in touch with your assistant by telephone to confirm receipt of this letter. Please be sure to fax your reply to the attention of Kerry Pither, at (613) 563-7861.

Thank you very much for your consideration,

Kerry Pither and Bella Galhos
East Timor Alert Network/Ottawa
Telephone: (613) 230-4070
Facsimile: (613) 563-7861

NA12 The Globe and Mail, Wednesday, October 15, 1997

International News

◆

The noise level is rising as the Nov. 24-25 Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation summit in Vancouver draws near. Two alternative summits are planned, one calling for dialogue on human rights and other issues with APEC participants and the other based on the premise that APEC shouldn't exist.

The announcement last week that Indonesian President **Suharto** will attend the summit heightens the chances of good political theatre. Besides Mr. Suharto and the rest of the APEC cast, Vancouver will play host to Team Timor — 10 exiles from East Timor, the former Portuguese colony occupied by Indonesia in 1975.

The exiles include survivors of the 1991 massacre in which between 100 and 200 Timorese were shot dead by Indonesian troops during a funeral procession.

Some were able to leave Indonesia after seeking refuge in Western embassies in Jakarta. They now live in Australia, Portugal and the Netherlands.

One harrowing story is that of **Tomas Alfredo,** who was adopted at 2 by an Indonesian official after his parents were killed in 1979, and who didn't discover he was Timorese until he was a teen-ager.

The group is sponsored by the East Timor Alert Network, which plans mock trials and protests in several cities throughout November.

E-mail: pknox@globeandmail.ca

Paul Knox

on people and trends around the globe

ETAN gears up *for dictator's visit*

ottawa VOX

by Andrew Griffin

The folks at the East Timor Alert Network (ETAN) are shifting it into high gear in their efforts to prepare for Indonesian dictator Suharto's visit to Canada next month. And they would like you to help them out.

Opening my mailbox a couple of weeks ago, I found a letter from NDP MP Svend Robinson. Strange, I thought, we're both fags but I could see no reason why he should be writing me. Opening the missive, I found a copy of the East Timor Alert Network newsletter. If you'd like to get your own copy, write to ETAN National Office, P.O. Box 562, Stn P, Toronto, ON M5S 2T1. Tel: (416) 531-5850. E-mail: etantor@web.net.

The next thing to arrive was an e-mail, signed by Kerry Pithers of the Ottawa ETAN, detailing local and national events being planned. A summarized version follows.

"ETAN is up to something pretty wild for this year's anniversary of the November 12, 1991, Dili Massacre, and we thought you might have ideas or comments to share," writes Pithers.

"You may have heard the news that Suharto actually balked at the idea of protests over East Timor and threatened not to come to APEC meetings in Vancouver. Well, just to be sure one of the world's most brutal dictators would feel welcome, the Canadian Prime Minister sent a special envoy to Suharto's palace last Tuesday to get on his knees and beg Suharto to come... The Canadian government has promised to keep things under control and has promised that there will be no security risk (not to Suharto, anyway!)"

On November 5, a delegation of East Timorese activists dubbed "Team Timor" will arrive in Ottawa to testify on Parliament Hill at Indonesian dictator Suharto's "preliminary hearing." Thanks to our friend Svend, the "preliminary hearing" will take place all day and evening on Wednesday, November 12 in Room 200 in the West Block of Parliament Hill. A stunning photo exhibit depicting East Timor's history before and during the occupation will set the tone for the hearing. The whole thing is, of course, open to the public.

"Following the 'preliminary hearing' in Ottawa on the 12th, each of our guests will fly to one of ten different Canadian cities to prepare to speak at actions as part of the November 15 national day of action for East Timor. Participating cities include: Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Winnipeg, Windsor, Toronto, Ottawa, Montréal, Halifax and St. John's.

"In Ottawa, we are considering trying to officially re-name the Ottawa River Parkway to be the 'East Timor Parkway' for the day, and having a funeral procession/convoy/parade of decorated cars from Parliament Hill to the Embassy on Parkdale Avenue, where Alfredo Rodriguez will speak with Bella and an exiled Indonesian academic, George Aditjondro.

"We need ideas for this from all of you if you have time."

On Monday, Nov. 17, the Suharto War Crimes Trial begins in Vancouver. After the trial, the Anti-APEC conferences continue until Nov. 24 & 25, when Suharto himself comes to town. A couple of hundred Vancouverites are apparently now in civil disobedience training to prepare for a mass citizen's arrest of Suharto when he arrives.

You can call the Ottawa chapter or ETAN at 230-4070, or e-mail them at etanott@web.net.

"Team Timor" to Put Suharto on Trial

East Timorese and Indonesian activists to tour Canada

ETAN volunteer

You may have heard that Indonesian President Suharto balked at the idea of protests over East Timor and threatened not to come to November's APEC meetings in Vancouver.

Well, just to be sure one of the world's most brutal dictators would feel welcome, the Canadian Prime Minister sent a special envoy to Suharto's palace to beg him to come. The Canadian government has promised to keep things under control, and has promised that there will be no security risk (not to Suharto, anyway).

The East Timor Alert Network is responding with the largest coast-to-coast campaign ever held for East Timor. The launch will be in Ottawa, and 11 East Timorese and two Indonesian activists will join us for a national day of action.

On November 12, 1994, 450 of us were walking the streets from the Indonesian Embassy to Parliament Hill. At the same time, 19 East Timorese were scaling the fence at the American Embassy in Jakarta during APEC meetings in Indonesia. Some of these Timorese demonstrators, and others from the underground resistance, including many who are survivors of the Dili Massacre, will be part of a "Team Timor" delegation arriving in Ottawa November 10. Their motto is "Social justice and human rights before trade and profit!"

Most of the Timorese dissidents in Team Timor recently escaped from East Timor by occupying embassies in Jakarta. Many are from Los Palos, a village notorious for being one of the most oppressed in East Timor. All speak English except one—Alfredo Rodriguez. His story is so incredible, we asked him to come anyway and arranged for Bella Galhos to interpret for him. Alfredo's parents were killed during the invasion, and he grew up in the jungle with the guerrillas. He was shot five times before being captured. He was dragged through most of East Timor's detention centres, moved from centre to centre because he fought back when tortured.

Another member of the delegation, Tomas Alfredo Gandara, is one of the "stolen generation" of East Timor—hundreds, perhaps thousands, of East Timorese who as children were abducted by Indonesians during the occupation of their country. He was abducted in 1979 at the age of two, grew up in Indonesia and had no idea that he was East Timorese until he was 17 years old. He has lived in Lisbon since 1996, after escaping through the Dutch embassy in Jakarta.

On November 12, the sixth anniversary of the Dili Massacre in East Timor, we're putting Suharto on trial, charging him with war crimes and crimes against humanity, as defined by Canadian Criminal Code. The hearing will be from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. and 6–9 p.m. in Room 200 in the West Block of Parliament Hill. Team Timor will testify about the genocide, killings, rape and torture they've witnessed in Indonesian-occupied East Timor. Two Indonesian activists will testify about mass murder and ongoing oppression in Indonesia. The "judges" include Bob White, President of the Canadian Labour Congress; Joan Grant-Cummings, President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women; Maude Barlow, National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians and Marion Dewar, former Mayor of Ottawa. A photo exhibit open all day at the West Block will document crimes against humanity in Indonesian-occupied East Timor over the last 22 years. The hearing and photo exhibit are open for everyone to attend.

On Saturday, November 15, members of Team Timor will fly to ten Canadian cities—Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Winnipeg, Windsor, Toronto, Ottawa, Montréal, Halifax and St. John's—to take part in the national day of protest for East Timor and Indonesia. In Ottawa, a motorcade funeral procession of decorated cars will proceed through downtown Ottawa from Parliament Hill to the Indonesian Embassy on Parkdale Avenue, where exiled East Timorese Alfredo Rodriguez and Bella Galhos will speak along with exiled Indonesian activist Jusfiq Hadjar.

On Sunday, November 16, churches across the country will participate in our campaign as part of a national day of prayer for East Timor. In Vancouver November 17, Team Timor will testify at Part Two of Suharto's trial, dubbed the "People's War Crimes Tribunal for Suharto" at the University of British Columbia. A mass citizens' arrest of Suharto is rumoured to happen when he arrives November 24.

If you want more information or would like to get involved, please call us at 230-4070.

SUHARTO
ON TRIAL

[illegible] Suharto [illegible] to enter Canada for APEC [illegible] On November 12, the [illegible] anniversary of the Dili Massacre in [illegible] putting him on trial.

FOR GENOCIDE IN EAST TIMOR & MASS MURDER IN INDONESIA

CHARGE: Crimes against humanity and war crimes as defined by Canadian Criminal Code Section 7(3.71-3.76).

WITNESSES: Thirteen exiled East Timorese will testify about the genocide, killings, rape and torture in East Timor. Many are survivors of the 1991 Dili Massacre, when Indonesian troops killed more 270 unarmed people. Two Indonesian activists will testify about mass murder and ongoing oppression in Indonesia.

EVIDENCE: A photo exhibit will document crimes against humanity during Indonesia's 22 year occupation of East Timor.

JUDGES INCLUDE: Bob White, CLC President; Joan Grant-Cummings, President of NAC; Maude Barlow, National Chair, Council of Canadians, Marion Dewar, former Ottawa Mayor.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12
Rm 200, West Block, Parliament Hill
Hearing #1: 9 AM to 1 PM (avec intérpretation) Hearing #2: 6 PM to 9 PM

Free admission! All welcome

For more information call the East Timor Alert Network at 230-4070, or visit www.etan.ca

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1997

THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

NDP politician slams visit by Suharto

Indonesian leader guilty of crimes against humanity, MP tells Commons

**By Peter O'Neill
and Mike Trickey
The Ottawa Citizen**

Indonesian President Suharto should either be denied entry into Canada or arrested for crimes against humanity when he arrives for a conference in Vancouver this month, MP Svend Robinson told the House of Commons yesterday.

The Immigration Act permits cabinet to refuse entry to any person, including senior members of foreign governments, who have engaged in "gross human rights violations or crimes against humanity," the NDP MP for Burnaby-Douglas, B.C., told the Commons.

"Will the minister explain why Indonesian President Suharto, guilty of genocidal policies in East Timor and massive human rights violations in Indonesia, is not being barred under the Immigration Act or charged with war crimes if he sets foot on Canadian territory?" Mr. Robinson asked Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy.

But Mr. Axworthy indicated Suharto will enjoy both a warm reception and possible support for Indonesia's call for closer ties with Canada, including training of Indonesian police officers here and appointment of an Indonesian military attaché in Ottawa.

Suharto is to meet with Mr. Axworthy, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, U.S. President Bill Clinton and other leaders from the 18-member Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation forum meeting in Vancouver Nov. 19 to 26.

"President Suharto is a guest of Canada at the APEC summit and I expect he will be given the proper courtesy that any guest of Canada is afforded," Mr. Axworthy told the Commons.

Speaking at the University of Ottawa's Human Rights Centre yesterday, Mr. Axworthy also insisted that engaging the repressive regime in Indonesia through dialogue and trade will achieve human rights progress faster than would a policy of isolation.

But several East Timorese who say they were imprisoned and tortured by soldiers enforcing the rule of Gen. Suharto, were unimpressed with Mr. Axworthy's commitment to continued dialogue.

"We've been talking to them for 22 years," said Bella Galhos.

"While we're talking, people are dying."

Mr. Robinson pointed out that according to the Immigration Act, entry to Canada can be denied to any person when there are "reasonable grounds" that they committed crimes against humanity which, had they been committed in Canada, would have been in violation of the Criminal Code.

The act specifically denies entry to senior officials of foreign governments who, "in the opinion of the (immigration) minister," engaged in gross human rights violations, war crimes or crimes against humanity as defined in Canadian criminal law.

However, the federal cabinet is allowed to exempt persons who have satisfied the government that their admission wouldn't be detrimental to the national interest.

"I think its shameful and embarrassing that Canada is rolling out the red carpet for a war criminal," Mr. Robinson told reporters.

Suharto has been condemned by the United Nations for "grave" rights violations in the occupied island of East Timor, a former Portugese colony which the Indonesian military invaded in 1975. A group of activists plan to hold a mock trial the Indonesian president next week in Vancouver on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Peter O'Neill writes for the Vancouver Sun. Mike Trickey writes for the Citizen.

Department of Foreign Affairs
and International Trade

CANADA

Ministère des Affaires étrangères
et du Commerce international

125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0G2

November 6, 1997

Ms. Kerry Pither and Ms. Bella Galhos
East Timor Alert Network
P. O. Box 4115, Station E
Ottawa, Ontario
K1S 5B1
Fax: 563-7861

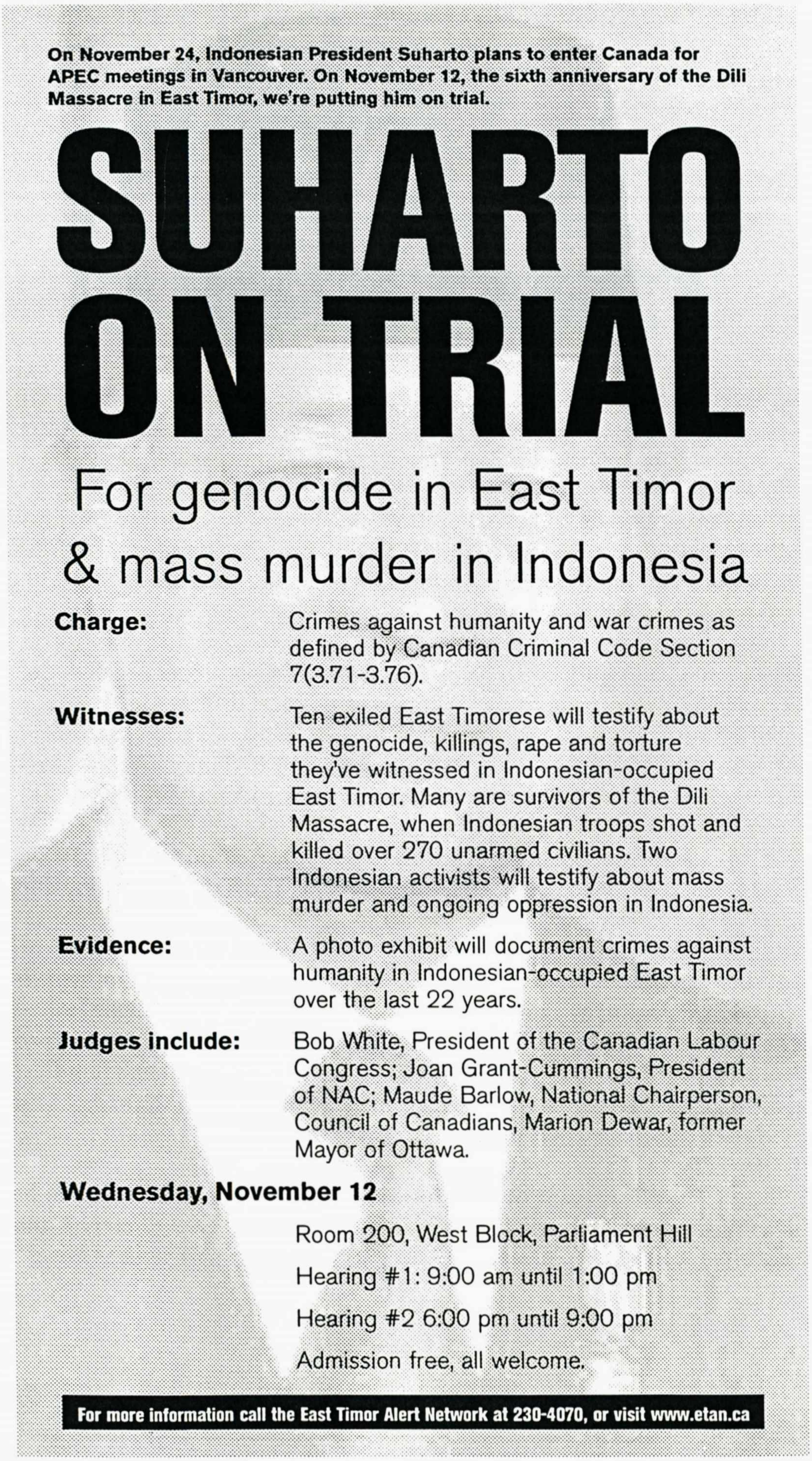
Dear Ms. Pither and Ms. Galhos:

Thank you for your letter of October 15, 1997 addressed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

I regret to advise you that the meeting proposed to take place on Friday, November 7, 1997 at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade will not be possible as Mrs. Ingrid Hall, Director General for South and Southeast Asia, will not be available to meet with you and your visitors.

Yours sincerely,

John Donaghy
Director
Southeast Asia Division



On November 24, Indonesian President Suharto plans to enter Canada for APEC meetings in Vancouver. On November 12, the sixth anniversary of the Dili Massacre in East Timor, we're putting him on trial.

SUHARTO ON TRIAL

For genocide in East Timor & mass murder in Indonesia

Charge:	Crimes against humanity and war crimes as defined by Canadian Criminal Code Section 7(3.71-3.76).
Witnesses:	Ten exiled East Timorese will testify about the genocide, killings, rape and torture they've witnessed in Indonesian-occupied East Timor. Many are survivors of the Dili Massacre, when Indonesian troops shot and killed over 270 unarmed civilians. Two Indonesian activists will testify about mass murder and ongoing oppression in Indonesia.
Evidence:	A photo exhibit will document crimes against humanity in Indonesian-occupied East Timor over the last 22 years.
Judges include:	Bob White, President of the Canadian Labour Congress; Joan Grant-Cummings, President of NAC; Maude Barlow, National Chairperson, Council of Canadians, Marion Dewar, former Mayor of Ottawa.

Wednesday, November 12

Room 200, West Block, Parliament Hill

Hearing #1: 9:00 am until 1:00 pm

Hearing #2 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm

Admission free, all welcome.

For more information call the East Timor Alert Network at 230-4070, or visit www.etan.ca

t Timor Alert Network (ETAN)

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 10, 1997

Suharto on trial on Parliament Hill

10am, Wednesday, November 12

OTTAWA — Thirteen exiled East Timorese and two Indonesian dissidents are in Ottawa this week to put Indonesian President Suharto on trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity — they will testify as witnesses to genocide in East Timor, and mass murder in Indonesia.

The "trial" will take place in Room 200 of the West Block of Parliament Hill, on Wednesday, November 12 — the sixth anniversary of the 1991 Dili Massacre. Many of those who will testify are survivors of the 1991 massacre, when Indonesian troops gunned down over 250 civilians taking part in a funeral procession in East Timor's capital.

Two of the women will testify about being injected with depo provera against their will. Alfredo Rodrigues is covered in scars from being tortured as a political prisoner in East Timor. Roberto Jeronimo spent 12 years in Cipinang Prison in Indonesia. Tomas Gandara's parents were killed when he was two years old, and he was one of hundreds of East Timorese children who were abducted and taken to Indonesia. He only discovered his true identity in 1994.

"We are here to ask the Canadian government to put Suharto on trial for what he has done to our people," said Gandara. "We are here to ask the Canadian government to stop supporting this regime."

At a talk at the University of Ottawa last week, the delegation was disappointed to hear Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy express a commitment to continue "dialogue" with the Indonesian Regime. "They've been talking for over 22 years, and one third of my people are dead. How many more people have to die before Canada stops shaking this man's hand?" asked Bella Galhos, one of three East Timorese who live in Canada. "Now we want Canada to use its lwar crimes legislation to put this war criminal on trial," she said.

Dubbed "Team Timor," and campaigning for social justice and human rights to be put *ahead* of trade, members of the delegation will continue from Ottawa to twelve different Canadian cities before landing in Vancouver on November 17 for part two of the trial, at the University of British Columbia.

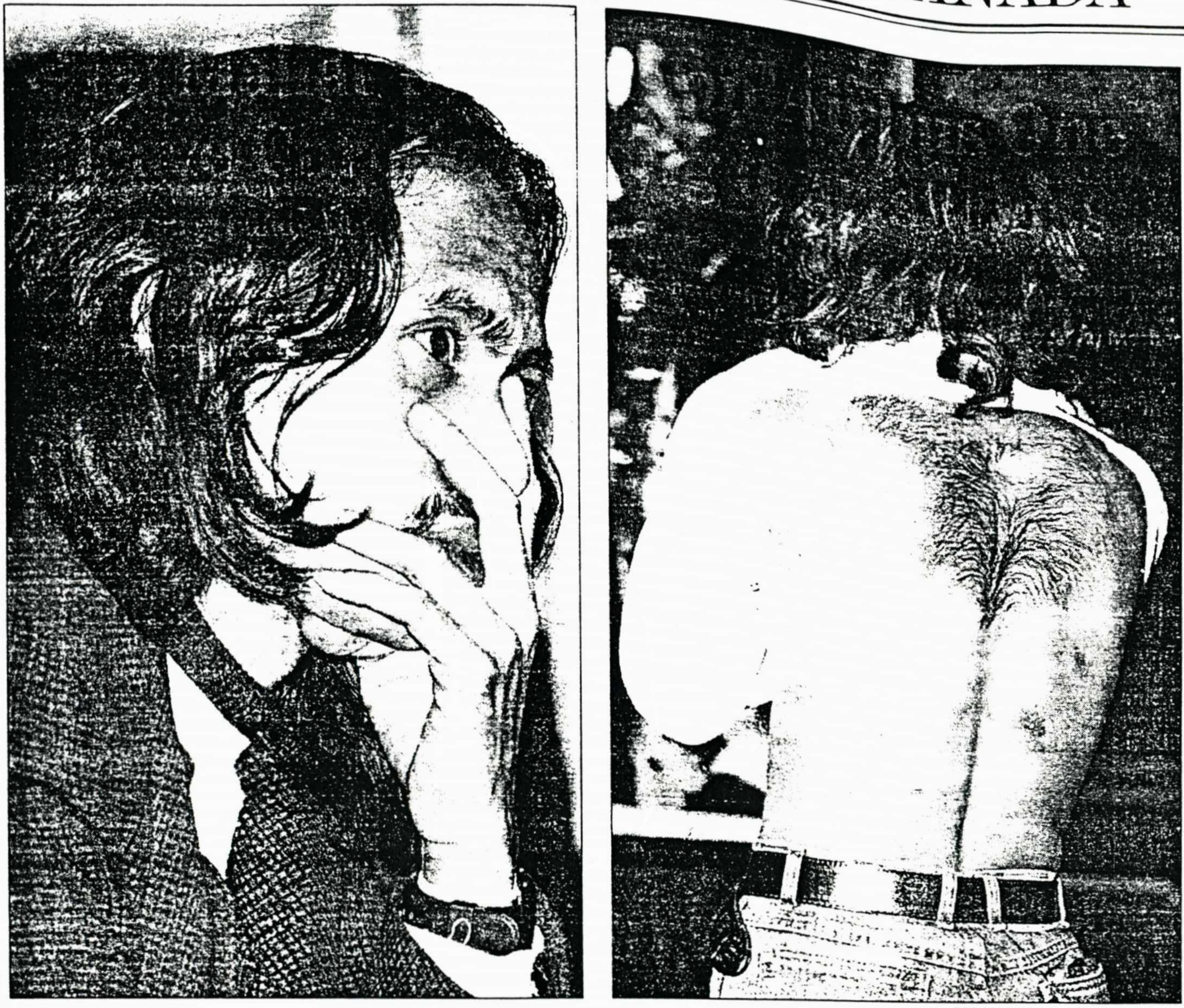
—30—

For more information, contact Kerry Pither (613) 230-4070
or visit our web page at www.etan.ca

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1997 A3

THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

CANADA



ROD MACIVOR, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

At a mock trial of Indonesian President Suharto yesterday, Timorese victim Alfredo Rodrigues recalled the beatings he suffered at the hands of Indonesian soldiers and showed the scars still visible four years later.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1997 A3

THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

CANADA

Timorese mock trial showcases real atrocities

Indonesian president should be barred or put behind bars, victims say

BY MIKE TRICKEY
The Ottawa Citizen

Timorese victims of Indonesia's brutal occupation of their state gave tearful witness to the atrocities they have endured and called yesterday for the Canadian government to prevent President Suharto from attending the Asian Pacific Economic Co-operation forum in Vancouver.

The mock trial for the Indonesian dictator on the sixth anniversary of the Dili massacre, in which Indonesian troops killed more than 250 civilians at a funeral in the East Timor capital, began a 12-city tour of Team Timor.

The tourconcludes in Vancouver next Monday with another "trial."

The 15-member team comprises 13 East Timorese, who escaped the repression that has been imposed since the 1975 annexation of the island by Indonesia, and two dissident Indonesians now living abroad.

Telling tales of murder, rape, torture and forced sterilization, the group called on the Canadian government to bar Mr. Suharto from the country or to allow him entry and then put him on trial for war crimes and human rights violations.

"Either bar him or put him behind bars," said George Aditjondro, a dissident Indonesian now teaching at Australia's Newcastle University.

Mr. Aditjondro says the vast market and natural resources offered by Indonesia's 200 million people have blinded Canadian politicians and business leaders to the systematic human rights abuses in the country.

"Our sweat and our blood forms a significant part of your bread and butter," he said, calling for an immediate halt to all Canadian military ties and trade links until Indonesian troops are withdrawn from East Timor.

Canada did $1.6 billion in trade with Indonesia last year, putting it among the top 20 Canadian trading partners.

Representatives of the East Timor Alert Network said Canada does not need to wait for international sanctions or tribunals to bar Mr. Suharto, claiming a section of the Immigration Act permits the immigration minister to unilaterally bar anyone engaging in gross human rights abuses.

The section says "persons who are or were senior members in the service of a government that is or was, in the opinion of the minister, engaged in terrorism, systematic or gross human right violations or war crimes or crimes against humanity" can be prevented from entering Canada.

Immigration spokesman René Mercier says such a decision "is not taken lightly" and would not be taken without extensive consultation with Foreign Affairs.

Five regimes — Iraq, Somalia, Haiti (from 1971-86, 1991-93 and 1993-94), the former Soviet puppet government of Afghanistan and the Republic of Srpska under Radovan Karadzic — are currently under such sanction after unilateral Canadian decisions.

However, Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy argues that engaging Indonesia through dialogue and trade will achieve progress in human rights faster than would a policy of isolation.

Department spokeswoman Jennifer Ledwidge said Mr. Suharto will be in Canada at the invitation of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien.

Bella Galhos told of her aunt being 'raped to death' by soldiers after being forced to watch the murder of her husband and two children.

"He is going to be welcome as a guest and as a leading Asian statesman," she said, adding the Foreign Ministry still believes its policy of constructive engagement will bring results.

"That said, human rights in Indonesia and, in particular, in East Timor are important Canadian concerns. But we don't feel events such as the one (yesterday) or suggestions that President Suharto should be banned from the country are realistic solutions to the human rights problems."

However, Bella Galhos, a 25-year-old East Timorese now living in Canada, says the policy has brought no results and the killing continues unabated.

"They've been talking for over 22 years and one-third of my people are dead," she said.

"How many more people have to die before Canada stops shaking this man's hand."

Ms. Galhos told of growing up in a climate of constant fear and of being forcibly injected with the birth control drug Depo-Provera along with other teenage girls in her school and of her aunt being "raped to death" by soldiers after being forced to watch the murder of her two children and her husband.

Alfredo Rodrigues, looking almost twice his 28 years, displayed the deep scars on his back still vivid four years after he was arrested and beaten by Indonesian soldiers.

He was first arrested and tortured in 1989 after both his parents and brother had been killed.

"They kicked me, beat me and burned my body with cigarettes. They placed my toes and fingers one-by-one under a table leg and a soldier sat on the table. I screamed from the great pain. Finally, all my toe nails and one finger nail were pulled out."

After his release in 1990, he was arrested again in 1993 and endured further beatings and torture.

"They tied my arms with a rope and tortured me by beating, kicking and burning me with cigarettes. I was bleeding and they made me drink the blood from my wounds," he said.

Mr. Rodrigues eventually fled to Jakarta and took refuge in the Japanese embassy where he sought asylum. He now lives in Portugal.

The victims' testimony went on for three hours with each adding a new horror story.

Aviano Faria, 27, told of surviving the Dili massacre only by laying on the ground and pretending to be dead.

He says he was tossed on a truck with corpses and taken to the morgue with the dead and almost dead and watched as the soldiers came in to finish off those still living with stones and injections.

He says he startled the soldiers by standing up and saved himself by claiming to be an Indonesian agent who had been caught up in the massacre by mistake.

"I wanted to survive so I could tell the international community about this massacre," he said.

Representatives from the Indonesian embassy attended yesterday's event, but they refused to comment on why they were there or what they were doing with the information they were gathering on the Team Timor protesters.

Scars of a brutal regime

Alfredo Rodriques displays some of the bullet holes and other scars he's received at the hands of the Indonesian military. Rodriques and several other East Timorese and Indonesian dissidents spoke at an Ottawa news conference yesterday urging Canada to bar Indonesian President Suharto from Canada.

CP

More...
➤ **On Suharto regime: Page 20**

Survivors recall 'genocide'

Isabel Galhos, one of three East Timorese expatriates living in Canada, doesn't mince words when she describes the 22-year regime of Indonesian President Suharto.

"We are the generation that has lived through genocide," Galhos, 25, told a solemn gathering yesterday that was equal parts media, East Timorese or Indonesian dissidents and sympathetic observers.

"I'm talking about murder, I'm talking about rape. I'm talking about mothers still looking for their children."

Thus began three hours of graphic, often heart-breaking and sometimes harrowing testimonials to the ongoing repression and brutality of the Suharto regime.

The purpose of the exercise, eight days before the beginning of the Asian Pacific Economic Co-operation summit in Vancouver, was to dissuade the federal government from allowing Suharto into Canada to attend.

'I'm talking about murder. I'm talking about rape.'

"Either bar him or put him behind bars," said dissident Indonesian professor George Aditjondro.

Neither will happen.

Canada's relations with Indonesia, and Suharto, have warmed considerably this year. In July, the two governments signed a joint declaration designed to "broaden relations and enhance mutual confidence."

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy speaks of "principled pragmatism" in defending his policy to engage repressive governments in China, Cuba and Indonesia through trade arrangements.

Galhos described soldiers entering her classroom when she was 13 and forcibly injecting all female students. She later learned it was Depo Provera, a birth control drug.

Longtime social activist and former New Democrat MP Marion Dewar compared appeasing Suharto to Canada's policy of turning away Jews after the Second World War. History will judge us harshly, she said.

"Do we now want to be part of a generation of Canadians that is welcoming Suharto, a murderer, a torturer, a sterilizer of young women?" said Dewar. —CP

Trial Finds Suharto Guilty of War Crimes

by David Mills

A mock trial has found Indonesian President Suharto guilty of war crimes. The trial, held November 12 on Parliament Hill, protested Indonesia's occupation of East Timor. The trial was organized by the East Timor Alert Network.

Thirteen East Timorese and two Indonesian dissidents testified against Suharto's regime. The trial was timed to protest Suharto's participation at the APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) conference in Vancouver on November 24.

The witnesses ranged from those born before Indonesia's invasion of East Timor in December, 1975, to others who had grown up subject to Indonesian cultural indoctrination and military occupation. Some had survived the 1991 massacre at Dili, in which at least 270 demonstrators were killed.

Two of the witnesses, Josefina Ribeiro and Isabel Galhos, were injected when schoolgirls with Depo Provera, a sterilizing agent used by Indonesia's military to limit the Timorese population.

"Our people have suffered much physical abuse," testified Isabel Galhos, who had defected to Canada in 1994. "Members of my family have been imprisoned, killed. Our friends have been arrested and disappeared."

Galhos described the brutalities the Timorese have suffered: "Nails pulled out, cigarette burns, women raped and forced to bear their attackers' children."

Timorese have been forced to relocate, arrested and imprisoned arbitrarily, tortured and killed. Since 1975, 250,000 East Timorese have died.

Abé Barreto Soares, one of three East Timorese living in Canada, said Indonesia used an exaggerated Communist threat to gain support from the United States for invading East Timor, which had recently been discovered to have petroleum reserves.

"Indonesia was allied with the Western Block," he says. "They used this excuse to invade."

The witnesses decried the tolerance Western countries have shown toward the Suharto government. During the late 1970s, the United States sold Indonesia counter-insurgency planes, which were used against Timorese guerrillas. Germany sold 93 warships to Indonesia in 1993. In 1989 Australia signed the Timor Gap agreement with the Suharto regime, effectively recognizing the occupation of East Timor in exchange for mineral exploitation and, recently, fishing rights off the Timorese coast.

Witnesses said Canada sold Indonesia $362 million worth of military equipment in 1995. They called for an international ban on military sales to Indonesia, which, they said, only bolster Suharto's regime.

Organizers urged Minister of Immigration Lucienne Robillard to ban Suharto from entering Canada. Under Canadian law, war criminals can be prevented from entering Canada.

The witnesses, some of whom had travelled from Australia and Portugal, were to continue on to several Canadian cities before regrouping in Vancouver to participate in protests against the APEC conference.

"We're here to win friends, to mobilize public opinion, to let them know more and more what we've been through," explained Abé Soares. "With that, we hope to succeed."

Isabel Galhos (centre) holds a mask of Indonesian President Suharto, with the help of other East Timorese activists. Suharto was charged with war crimes at a mock trial November 12 on Parliament Hill. Suharto directed the Indonesian invasion of East Timor in 1975. (Story on page 8.) Photo: Carla Brown

Carleton University

Protests peak as APEC gets underway

by JODY SMITH
Charlatan Staff

The West Block's opulent ballroom, sagging under the weight of its own chandeliers, seems an unlikely place to try a war criminal.

But on Nov. 12, Parliament Hill was the site of one of many recent demonstrations leading up to the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation leaders' summit in Vancouver Nov. 24-25.

APEC is an organization of Pacific Rim countries including Canada, the United States, Japan and Indonesia.

Activists from across Canada have been working to bring attention to human rights issues they say will be overshadowed by the economic focus of the summit.

Some of their latest activities include a funeral procession to the Indonesian embassy in Ottawa Nov. 15 to commemorate the massacre of 200 East Timorese in 1991 and the painting of an APEC-free zone on the University of British Columbia's campus where the summit will take place. Two students were arrested for painting the APEC-free zone.

A People's Summit focused on human rights is being held in Vancouver to coincide with the leaders' summit.

At the mock trial on Parliament Hill, Indonesian President Suharto was tried for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The accusations against Suharto stem from military actions in East Timor, a small country colonized by Indonesia in 1975.

The case against him was made by Team Timor — a group of East Timorese in exile who travelled to Canada from around the world to promote human rights.

All of the members of Team Timor testified about their personal experiences under Indonesian rule, including seeing family members raped and murdered, being tortured, and being forcibly injected with contraceptives.

One man, Alfredo Rodriques, bared his back to show the room and photographers his scars.

Another team member, Jose Antonio Amorim Dias, said in his testimony:

"Every day I witnessed people — friends — being arrested, the military searching houses, beating people, intimidating people." Dias described witnessing the Nov. 12, 1991, Dili Massacre.

"(The Indonesian army) drove right over the ones that were on the ground. Some of the wounded moved their arms and legs to show that they were still alive, but the trucks did not stop."

The Indonesian embassy declined an interview with *the Charlatan*.

Jennifer Story, national deputy chair of the Canadian Federation of Students, attended the mock trial and called on the Canadian government to help the situation.

"The Canadian government is privileging trade over human rights when it jails students," Story says in reference to the Oct. 31 arrest of two UBC students for painting anti-APEC graffiti.

Richard Carter, an English master's student at Carleton, also has harsh words for Canada.

"I am especially disappointed with the Canadian government's policy of constructive engagement," Carter says.

"The term is nothing more than politically correct jargon for exploiting cheap labor."

The Ottawa chapter of the East Timor Alert Network, who organized the event, and their supporters are demanding Suharto either not be allowed into Canada for the APEC summit, or he be charged and tried for war crimes once he gets here.

But Foreign Affairs says Suharto will be welcomed to Canada along with all the other APEC leaders.

Dexter Bishop, a Foreign Affairs spokesperson, says the Canadian government promotes constructive dialogue as the best way to raise human rights concerns with trade partners.

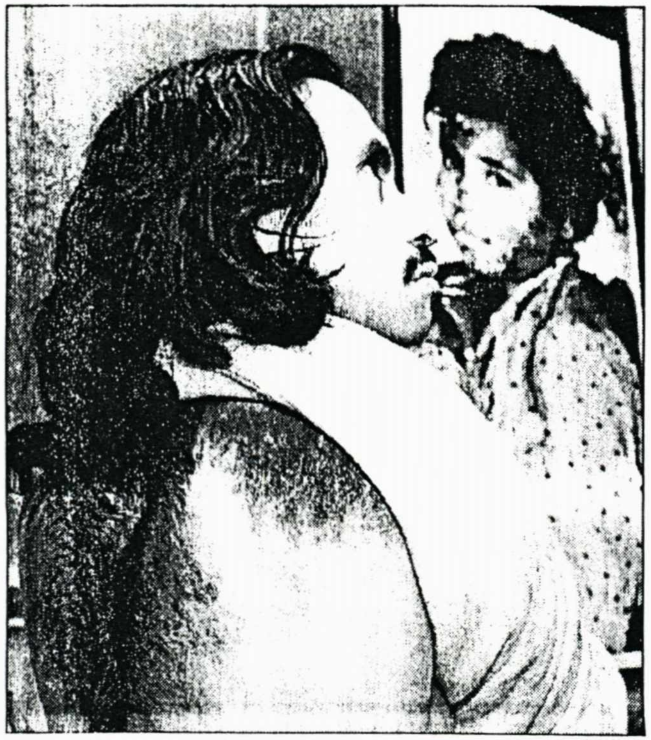
"We don't agree with tactics used by such groups and maintain that adopting a more constructive approach is likely to be more effective." ❑

WANTED
INDONESIAN PRESIDENT SUHARTO

FILE

President Suharto has never been convicted of war crimes by an international body.

East Timor survivors tell Ottawa of atrocities



CP PHOTO

EVIDENCE: Alfredo Rodrigues of East Timor, under a portrait of a girl wounded in a 1991 massacre, shows scars he says were left by Indonesian troops.

Torture, murder cited as reason to keep Suharto out

BY ALLAN THOMPSON
OTTAWA BUREAU

OTTAWA — Joao Antonio Dias said he watched Indonesian soldiers kill wounded East Timorese demonstrators by banging their heads against rocks.

Roberto Jeronimo spoke of beatings and electrical shocks to his genitals he endured while being tortured in an Indonesian prison.

Josefina Ribeiro told of how she was lined up in a classroom in East Timor, with all the other girls, and forcibly injected with the birth control agent Depo Provera.

All three were among witnesses who told their stories yesterday during a mock war-crimes trial of Indonesian President Suharto, whose forces stand accused of gross abuses of human rights in East Timor, a former Portuguese colony which Indonesia invaded in 1975 and claimed as its 27th province.

Suharto is scheduled to attend the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation summit in Vancouver later this month.

Thirteen expatriate East Timorese, brought to Ottawa by the East Timor Alert Network, told of executions, torture and other abuses at the hands of soldiers from Indonesia. The network believes Suharto should be barred from Canada based on an Immigration Act provision that forbids entry by those linked to crimes against humanity.

Dias was working in the lab of the military hospital in Dili, the East Timorese capital, on Nov. 12, 1991, when soldiers opened fire on demonstrators in the Santa Cruz cemetery.

Dias was forced to help unload bodies from trucks that brought the dead and wounded to the hospital, where bodies filled the morgue and then were simply lined up outside.

"The survivors were calling out for their mothers, they were calling for help. The military response was to stab them with daggers and with rifle butts, and to smash their heads against the rock," Dias said.

"In the meantime, the trucks kept coming with more bodies and they drove right over the ones that were on the ground. Many of the wounded gesticulated, moving their arms and their legs to show that they were still alive, but the trucks kept running over them.

"I witnessed this killing but I could not do anything," said Dias, his words choked by tears. "I felt helpless."

Dias and other witnesses spoke in an ornate committee room on Parliament Hill, standing before a large portrait of a bloodied little girl who survived the Dili massacre.

Victims 'taken in helicopters and thrown into sea'

Jeronimo, 42, a nurse and activist in the independence movement Fretilin, told of being tortured with electric shocks to his genitals. After his release, he worked in a military hospital.

"At the hospital, I often witnessed torture, rape and executions," he said. "Some were taken away in helicopters and thrown into the sea."

In 1983, he was arrested again and subjected to beatings and torture that included electrical shocks and having his finger nails pulled out.

Alfredo Rodrigues, 28, bared more than his soul yesterday. In the middle of his testimony, during which he described how soldiers crushed his toes and burned his body with cigarettes, Rodrigues turned around and pulled up his shirt, revealing a back covered with scars and burn marks.

A tearful Josefina Ribeiro, 25, said Suharto hoped "to eliminate us by stopping us from having baby."

"Like so many other Timorese women, I was injected with Depo Provera," she said. "All my male classmates were asked to leave the room, all the women were asked to line up so they could give the injection."

Aviano Faria, 27, told of how he survived the shooting in the Santa Cruz cemetery by pretending to be dead — but still being kicked in the head and stomach by Indonesian soldiers.

"As I speak here today my fellow brothers and sisters are still being killed," he said.

Timorese want Canada to bar Indonesian president Suharto

Protesters oppose invitation to attend APEC conference

MIKE TRICKEY
Southam Newspapers

Ottawa

Timorese victims of Indonesia's brutal occupation of their state called Wednesday for the Canadian government to prevent President Suharto from attending the Asian Pacific Economic Co-operation forum in Vancouver.

The mock trial for the Indonesian dictator, on the sixth anniversary of the Dili massacre in which Indonesian troops killed more than 250 civilians at a funeral in the East Timor capital, kicked off a 12-city tour of Team Timor that will conclude in Vancouver next Monday with another "trial."

The 15-member team comprises 13 East Timorese, who escaped the repression which has been imposed since the 1975 annexation of the island by Indonesia, and two dissident Indonesians now living abroad.

Telling tales of murder, rape, torture and forced sterilization, the group called on the Canadian government to bar Suharto from the country or to allow him entry and then put him on trial for war crimes and human rights violations.

"Either bar him or put him behind bars," said Dr. George Aditjondro, a dissident Indonesian now teaching at Australia's Newcastle University.

Aditjondro says the vast market and natural resources offered by Indonesia's 200 million people have blinded Canadian politicians and business leaders to the systematic human rights abuses in the country.

> *"Our sweat and our blood forms a significant part of your bread and butter."*
>
> — Indonesian dissident Dr. George Aditjondro

"Our sweat and our blood forms a significant part of your bread and butter," he said, calling for an immediate halt to all Canadian military ties and trade links until Indonesian troops are withdrawn from East Timor.

Canada did $1.6 billion in trade with Indonesia last year, putting it among the top 20 Canadian trading partners.

Representatives of the East Timor Alert Network said Canada does not need to wait for international sanctions or tribunals to bar Suharto, claiming a section of the Immigration Act permits the immigration minister to unilaterally bar anyone engaging in gross human rights abuses.

Five regimes -- Iraq, Somalia, Haiti (from 1971-86, 1991-93 and 1993-94), the former Soviet puppet government of Afghanistan and the Republic of Srpska under Radovan Karadzic — are currently under such sanction after unilateral Canadian decisions.

However, Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy argues that engaging Indonesia through dialogue and trade will achieve progress in human rights faster than would a policy of isolation.

Department spokesperson Jennifer Ledwidge said Suharto will be in Canada at the invitation of Prime Minister Jean Chretien.

"He is going to be welcome as a guest and as a leading Asian statesman," she said, adding that the Foreign Ministry still believes its policy of constructive engagement will bring results.

"That said, human rights in Indonesia and, in particular, in East Timor are important Canadian concerns. But we don't feel events such as the one (Wednesday) or suggestions that President Suharto should be banned from the country are realistic solutions to the human rights problems."

However, Bella Galhos, a 25-year-old East Timorese now living in Canada, says the policy has brought no results and that the killing continues unabated.

"They've been talking for over 22 years and one-third of my people are dead," she said. "How many more people have to die before Canada stops shaking this man's hand?"

Galhos told of growing up in a climate of constant fear, of being forcibly injected with the birth control drug Depo-Provera, and of her aunt being "raped to death" by soldiers after being forced to watch the murder of her two children and her husband.

Representatives from the Indonesian embassy attended Wednesday's event, but refused to comment on why they were there or what they were doing with the information they were gathering on the protesters.

Southam News

The Canadian Press

Isabel Galhos, from East Timor, asks for a moment of silence at a news conference in Ottawa Wednesday for people tortured and murdered by the Indonesian government in East Timor. Galhos spoke in front of a large portrait of a bloodied young girl who survived the Dili massacre

NATION

Keep Suharto out: Timorese

MIKE TRICKEY
Southam Newspapers

OTTAWA – Timorese victims of Indonesia's brutal occupation of their state gave witness to the atrocities they have endured and called yesterday for the Canadian government to prevent President Suharto from attending this month's Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Vancouver.

The mock trial for the Indonesian dictator on the sixth anniversary of the Dili massacre, in which Indonesian troops killed more than 250 civilians at a funeral in the East Timor capital, kicked off a 12-city tour of Team Timor that will conclude in Vancouver next Monday with another "trial."

The 15-member team comprises 13 East Timorese who escaped the repression imposed since the 1975 annexation of the island by Indonesia, and two dissident Indonesians now living abroad. Telling tales of murder, rape, torture and forced sterilization, the group called on the Canadian government to bar Suharto from the country or to allow him entry and then put him on trial for war crimes and human-rights violations.

"Either bar him or put him behind bars," said George Aditjondro, a dissident Indonesian now teaching at Australia's Newcastle University.

Aditjondro says the vast market and natural resources offered by Indonesia's 200 million people have blinded Canadian politicians and business leaders to the systematic human-rights abuses in the country. "Our sweat and our blood form a significant part of your bread and butter," he said, calling for a halt to all Canadian military ties and trade links until Indonesian troops are withdrawn from East Timor.

Canada did $1.6 billion in trade with Indonesia last year, putting it among the top 20 Canadian trading partners.

Representatives of the East Timor Alert Network said Canada does not need to wait for international sanctions or tribunals to bar Suharto, stating a section of the Immigration Act permits the immigration minister to unilaterally bar anyone engaging in gross human-rights abuses.

However, Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy argues that engaging Indonesia through dialogue and trade will achieve progress in human rights faster than would a policy of isolation.

Department spokesman Jennifer Ledwidge said Suharto will be in Canada at the invitation of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. "He is going to be welcome as a guest and as a leading Asian statesman," she said, adding that the Foreign Ministry still believes its policy of constructive engagement will bring results. "Human rights in Indonesia and, in particular, in East Timor are important Canadian concerns. But we don't feel events such as the one (yesterday) or suggestions that President Suharto should be banned from the country are realistic solutions."

Bella Galhos, a 25-year-old East Timorese living in Canada, says the policy has brought no results and that the killing continues. "They've been talking for over 22 years and one-third of my people are dead," she said. "How many more people have to die before Canada stops shaking this man's hand?"

SOUTHAM NEWS

A12 Thursday, November 13, 1997 The Chronicle-Herald The Mail-Star

HALIFAX

Indonesian dissidents chronicle rights abuses

By BRUCE CHEADLE
The Canadian Press

Ottawa

Isabel Galhos, one of three East Timorese expatriates living in Canada, doesn't mince words when she describes the 22-year regime of Indonesian President Suharta.

"We are the generation that has lived through genocide," Galhos, 25, told a solemn gathering Wednesday that was equal parts media, East Timorese or Indonesian dissidents and sympathetic observers.

"I'm talking about murder, I'm talking about rape, I'm talking about mothers still looking for their children."

Thus began three hours of graphic, often heart-breaking and sometimes harrowing testimonials to the ongoing repression and brutality of the Suharto regime.

The purpose of the exercise, eight days before the beginning of the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Vancouver, was to dissuade the federal government from allowing Suharto into Canada to attend.

"Either bar him or put him behind bars," said dissident Indonesian professor George Aditjondro.

Neither will happen.

Canada's relations with Indonesia, and Suharto, have warmed considerably this year. In July, the two governments signed a joint declaration designed to "broaden relations and enhance mutual confidence."

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy speaks of "principled pragmatism" in defending his policy to engage repressive governments in China, Cuba and Indonesia through trade arrangements.

Against Wednesday's tales and photos of torture, imprisonment and teenage sterilization, the principles were hard to find.

Joao Dias, a lab technician, described working at a military hospital in Dili, East Timor, when Indonesian soldiers opened fire on demonstrators, Nov. 12, 1991.

Some 18 truckloads of dead or wounded were dropped at the hospital.

"The survivors were calling out for their mothers, calling out for help," said Dias, choking back sobs.

"The military response was to stab them with bayonets, to beat their heads with rocks. I witnessed this killing, but I could not do anything."

Galhos described soldiers entering her classroom when she was 13 and forcibly injecting all female students. She later learned it was Depo Provera, a birth control drug.

Winnipeg Free Press
Thursday, November 13, 1997

Headline: "Ottawa urged to bar Suharto"

Ottawa urged to bar Suharto

Brutality reports a bid to keep Indonesian leader from summit

By Bruce Cheadle
Canadian Press

OTTAWA — ISABEL Galhos, one of three East Timorese expatriates living in Canada, doesn't mince words when she describes the 22-year regime of Indonesian President Suharto.

"We are the generation that has lived through genocide," Galhos, 25, told a solemn gathering yesterday that was equal parts media, East Timorese or Indonesian dissidents and sympathetic observers.

"I'm talking about murder, I'm talking about rape, I'm talking about mothers still looking for their children."

Thus began three hours of graphic, often heart-breaking and sometimes harrowing testimonies to the ongoing repression and brutality of the Suharto regime.

The purpose of the exercise, eight days before the beginning of the Asian Pacific Economic Co-operation summit in Vancouver, was to dissuade the federal government from allowing Suharto into Canada to attend. "Either bar him or put him behind bars," said dissident Indonesian professor George Aditjondro.

Neither will happen.

Canada's relations with Indonesia, and Suharto, have warmed considerably this year. In July, the two governments signed a declaration designed to "broaden relations and enhance mutual confidence."

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy speaks of "principled pragmatism" in defending his policy to engage repressive governments in China, Cuba and Indonesia through trade arrangements.

Against yesterday's tales and photos of torture, imprisonment and teenage sterilization, the principles were hard to find.

Joao Dias, a lab technician, described working at a military hospital in Dili, East Timor, when Indonesian soldiers opened fire on demonstrators, Nov. 12, 1991. Some 18 truckloads of dead or wounded were dropped at the hospital.

"The survivors were calling out for their mothers, calling out for help," said Dias, choking back sobs.

"The military response was to stab them with bayonets, to beat their heads with rocks. I witnessed this killing, but I could not do anything."

Aviano Faria told a harrowing tale of being dumped for dead in the military morgue, where he watched soldiers dispatching other wounded survivors of the Dili massacre.

Faria escaped by convincing soldiers he was an Indonesian spy beaten by mistake.

Timor Alert Network/ETAN

Media Advisory

November 14, 1997

Notice of News Conference

Time: 1:00 pm
Date: Today, November 14, 1997
Place: Room 130s, Centre Block, Parliament Hill

The East Timor Alert Network (ETAN) has learned that between 8:00 and 9:00 am this morning, Indonesian troops opened fire on East Timorese students staging a peaceful sit-in at the University of East Timor (UNTIM) in Dili, the capital. At least one student has been killed, and 13 others wounded.

There are now thirteen exiled East Timorese and two Indonesian dissidents tourig across Canada to demand that the Canadian government bar Suharto or arrest him for crimes against humanity when he arrives in Canada on November 24 for APEC meetings.

Four of these spokespeople are in Ottawa today, and will speak at a news conference in room 130S at 1:00 pm, in response to today's tragic news.

The following people will speak:

Kerry Pither, East Timor Alert Network
Bella Galhos, exiled East Timorese
Ines Almeida, exiled East Timorese
Alfredo Rodrigues, exiled East Timorese
Jusfiq Hadjar, Indonesian dissident
Dick Martin, Secretary Treasurer, CLC

-30-

For more information, contact...
Kerry Pither at 230-4070 or cell phone (613)850-7184

Asia

Students face troops in East Timor

Indonesian troops fired shots into the air to disperse hundreds of students yesterday in East Timor. Nine people — five students and four soldiers — were injured, police said. But student activists, who refused to give their names, said two students were killed in the violence outside the University of East Timor in Dili. Two days earlier, students had held a peaceful candlelight service to commemorate the massacre of pro-independence protesters by Indonesian troops on Nov. 12, 1991. In Ottawa, the Canadian Labour Congress and human-rights groups said the incident is another example of the ruthlessness of President Suharto's regime and further reason to bar him from entering Canada for the Pacific Rim economic summit that is scheduled to open in Vancouver in nine days. *— AP, Staff*

CONVOY FOR A FREE EAST TIMOR

Saturday, November 15, 12:30PM

From Parliament Hill through downtown Ottawa to the Indonesian Embassy.

Join our convoy funeral procession in memory of the 271 East Timorese killed and 250 disappeared during the November 12, 1991 Dili Massacre.

Meet us on Parliament Hill at 12:30 pm.

Bring a car or bike if you have one. If you don't, you can catch a ride to the embassy with us.

We will decorate cars appropriately on Parliament Hill and then leaving for the embassy at 1:30pm

---

GUEST SPEAKERS AT THE EMBASSY:

- **Alfredo Rodrigues,** and **Bella Galhos** exiled East Timorese activists
- **Jusfiq Hadjar,** exiled Indonesian activist

...ON PARLIAMENT HILL:

- former Ottawa mayor **Marion Dewar**

For more information call the East Timor Alert Network at 230-4070 or www.etan.ca

Free East Timor!

t *Timor Alert Network (ETAN)*

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 15, 1997

Exiled East Timorese to lay ten foot wreath at Embassy of Indonesia today

OTTAWA — As part of a national day of protest for East Timor and Indonesia, a convoy of cars led by a giant crane truck will wind its way through downtown Ottawa today from Parliament Hill to the Embassy of Indonesia.

When the convoy arrives at the embassy, two exiled East Timorese — Alfredo Rodriques and Bella Galhos — and an Indonesian dissident, Jusfiq Hadjar, will speak and then lay a ten foot wreath covered in crosses at the embassy.

The wreath will honour those who have lost their lives since Indonesia illegally occupied East Timor in 1975 — over one third of the population has died since.

This event also commemorates the November 12, 1991 Dili Massacre, when Indonesian troops killed at least 271 peaceful protesters in East Timor's capital.

Bella Galhos, the only East Timorese woman to escape to Canada, survived that massacre, and saw many friends and family die that day.

"I will be at the embassy for them today," she said. "And I will be there for my auntie, for my two baby brothers, and for all my friends who have been imprisoned, tortured and murdered by Suharto" said Galhos.

Yesterday, on November 14, Indonesian troops opened fire on students again, and conflicting reports indicate at least 13 have been badly injured. Indonesian police dragged wounded away from the International Red Cross to a military hospital.

This is the same military hospital where hundreds of wounded East Timorese were murdered by the Indonesian military following the Dili Massacre of 1991.

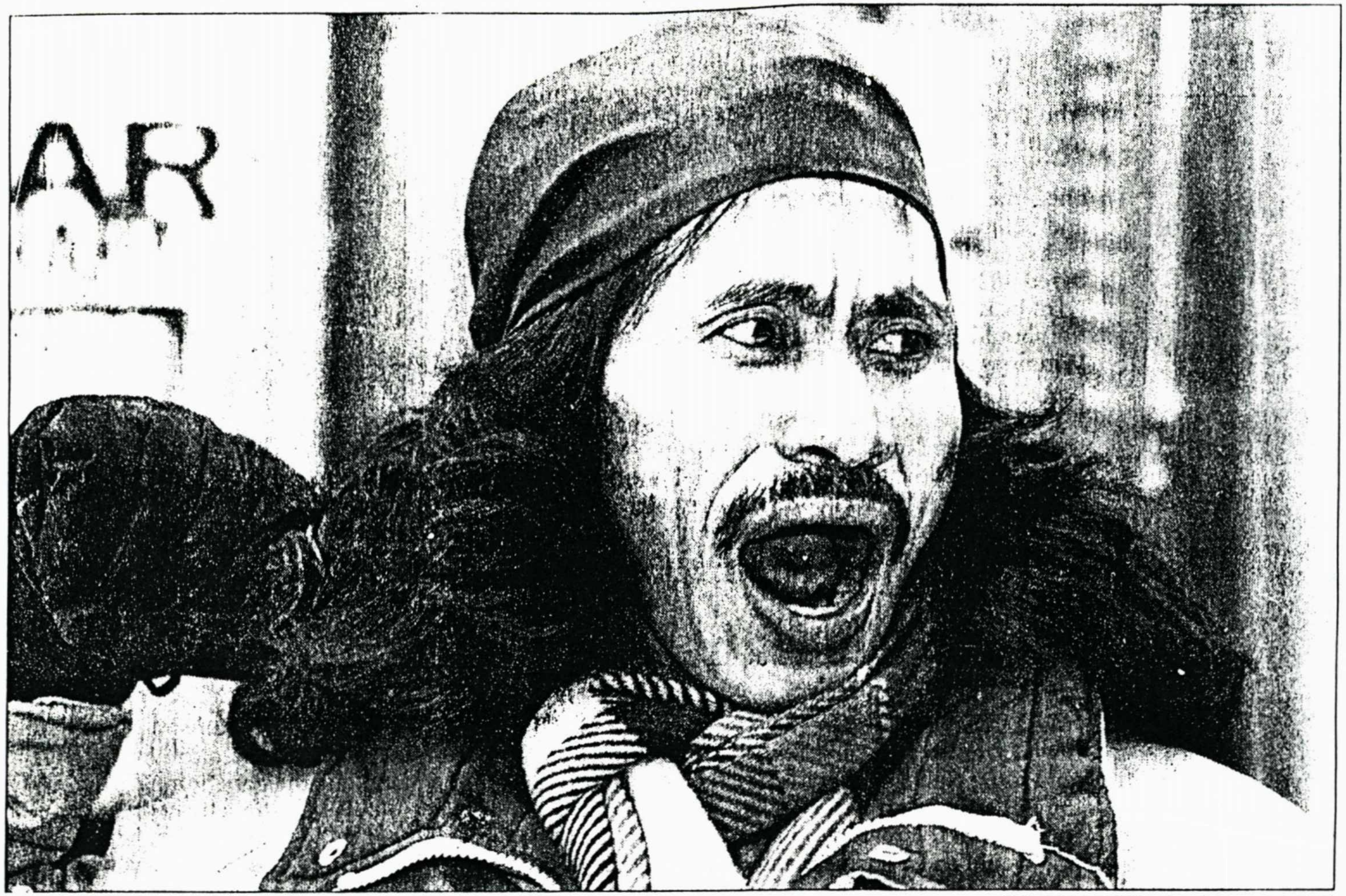
The convoy, fully decorated for a mock funeral procession, will leave Parliament Hill at 1:30 pm, and drive west on Wellington, south on Lyon, and west on Somerset, then to Richmond Road and north on Parkdale Avenue to the Embassy of Indonesia, at 55 Parkdale Avenue (at the Ottawa River Parkway).

As part of this national day of protest, East Timorese spokespersons are participating in protests in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Winnipeg, Windsor, Ottawa, Montreal, Halifax and St. John's. On Sunday, November 16, the delegation will particpate in a "National day of prayer for East Timor," before gathering in Vancouver on November 17 for part two of a war crimes tribunal for Indonesian President Suharto at the University of British Columbia.

—30—

For more information, contact Kerry Pither (613) 230-4070
or cell phone (613) 850-7184, or visit our web page at www.etan.ca

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO DIED FOR EAST TIMOR



BRUNO SCHLUMBERGER, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

Alfredo Rodrigues, an exiled East Timorese who has endured years of torture, took part in a protest in front of the Indonesian embassy yesterday. Protesters placed a three-metre wreath, covered in crosses, at the embassy to honour all those who have died since Indonesia's occupation of East Timor.

Campaign materials and news clippings: across Canada

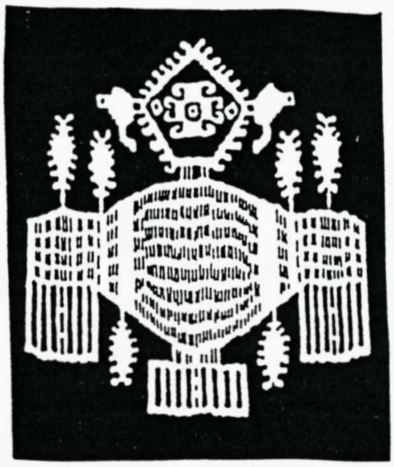
FREE EAST TIMOR

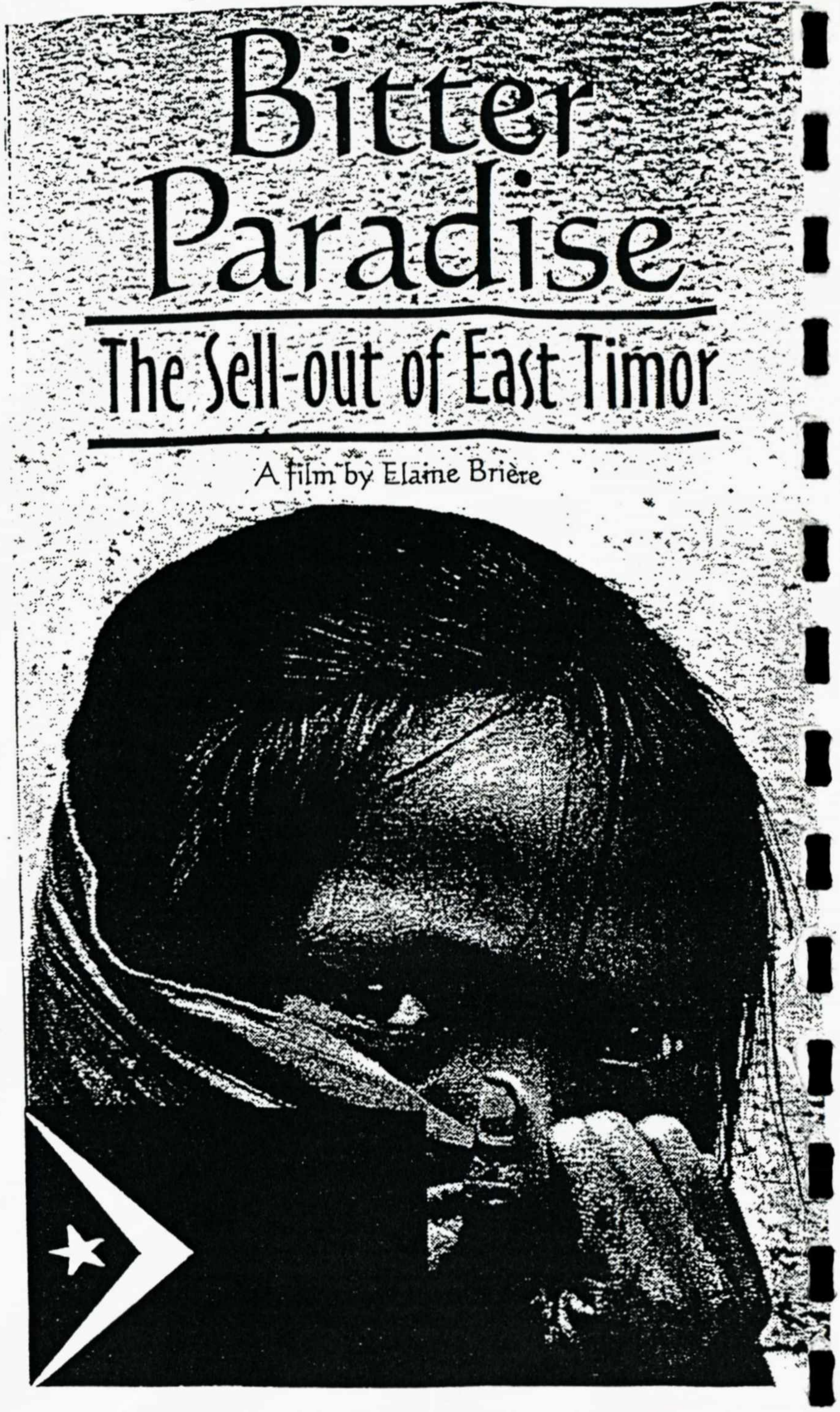
Indonesia invaded East Timor on Dec 7, 1975 and began a campaign of extermination that has so far claimed the lives of over 200,000 people, a third of the pre-invasion population, making this one of the worst acts of mass murder per capita since the Holocaust. Indonesian president Suharto's war crimes and crimes against humanity in East Timor have been made possible through the critical backing of G-7 nations, including military, diplomatic, financial, and ideological support. With the U.S., Canada is among the Western nations that have most disgraced themselves in this affair and continues to arm and finance the Indonesian dictatorship and to refuse to support East Timor's U.N. guaranteed right to self-determination in order to protect and extend its Indonesian investments and markets. This obscene complicity in genocide must stop.

On November 24, Prime Minister Chretien will bestow full state honours on the mass-murderer Suharto at the APEC meetings in Vancouver. As part of the campaign to protest this latest act in the ongoing sell-out of East Timor, thirteen East Timorese refugees who have experienced Indonesian atrocities first hand will be travelling across Canada to make their voices heard.

Tomas Alfredo Gandara is one of many East Timorese living in exile from their homeland. He was abducted by Indonesians in 1979 at the age of two and did not even learn of his East Timorese origin until he was seventeen when he returned to East Timor to fight for his country's freedom. He eventually escaped through the Dutch embassy in Jakarta, and has been living in Lisbon since 1996. Tomas will speak on:

Friday, Nov. 14 at 1:30 pm
Dalhousie Student Union Building
Room 310
Admission is free and all are welcome




Bitter Paradise
The Sell-out of East Timor
A film by Elaine Brière

EAST TIMOR:
THE STRUGGLE FOR SELF DETERMINATION

With Timorese activist in exile Maria Solana Soares. She will give testimony to the on going genocide in her country.

Featuring "Bitter Paradise: The Sell-out of East Timor" a film by Elaine Brière.

TIMOR-ORIENTAL:
LA LUTTE POUR L'AUTO-DÉTERMINATION

Avec Maria Solana Soares, activiste Timoraise en exile. Elle portera témoignage du génocide en cours en son pays.

Présentation du film "Bitter Paradise:The Sell-out of East Timor" d' Elaine Brière.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14th, 1997 at 7pm
VENDREDI LE 14 NOVEMBRE À 19h00
ADMISSION BY DONATION / CONTRIBUTION VOLONTAIRE

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY VISUAL ARTS BUILDING, RM 114
1395 RENÉ- LÉVESQUE BLVD OUEST
INFORMATION: 848-7443

cette soirée est organisée par / organized by Indigenous Peoples International, The East Timor Alert Network (ETAN/RATO).

90.3 FM CKUT

Formulaire d'inscription :

Nom ____________________
organisation ____________________
Adresse ____________________
____
no de téléphone ____________________
fax ____________________
E-mail ____________________

Veuillez choisir un atelier de discussion:

- ☐ Commerce équitable
- ☐ Droits sociaux et droits humains
- ☐ Souveraineté nationale et développement démocratique
- ☐ Droit à la terre et sécurité alimentaire
- ☐ Emploi et droits des travailleurs-euses
- ☐ Développement durable et environnement

- **Entrée libre pour les conférences.**
- Contribution volontaire pour la soirée de solidarité de samedi

Frais pour documentation:

- Tarif régulier:............................$10.00

personnes à bas revenu : ....$ 5.00

L'APEC :
ANTIDÉMOCRATIQUE, EXCLUSIF ET INSOUTENABLE

Trois aspects particulièrement problématiques du type de mondialisation que propose l'APEC sont absents des discussions qui auront lieu durant le sommet des leaders de Vancouver : l'absence de participation démocratique, la consolidation des processus d'exclusion sociale et l'abandon de l'idée d'un développement environnemental durable.

Forum populaire sur l'APEC
3680 Jeanne-Mance #440
Montréal (Québec) H2X 2K5

Tel: (514) 982-6606
poste 2256
fax: (514) 982-6122
E-Mail :
apec@alternatives.ca

PARLEMENT DES PEUPLES DE L'APEC

APEC :

"Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation": Un forum qui réunit 18 pays dont le Canada, les États-Unis, le Japon et la Chine, qui représente 56% du PNB mondial et qui vise à libéraliser les échanges économiques et les investissements d'ici 2020.

14 ET 15 NOVEMBRE
U Q A M
1225 St-Denis, local AM-050
Pavillon Hubert Aquin

[redacted]

Il y a maintenant sept ans, les gouvernements de l'Asie Pacifique, les États-Unis et le Canada créaient l'APEC (Coopération économique de l'Asie-Pacifique) avec l'objectif d'établir une zone de libre-échange et d'investissements, sans barrières tarifaires, d'ici l'an 2020.

Les économies des 18 pays-membres de l'APEC représentent 56% du PNB mondial (ou 14 000 milliards de dollars) et plus de 46% des échanges commerciaux mondiaux.

Le Canada sera l'hôte du Sommet des dirigeants de l'APEC qui se tiendra à Vancouver les 24 et 25 novembre 97. Le Parlement des peuples de l'APEC souhaite adopter une charte des peuples de l'APEC qui sera présentée à Vancouver dans le cadre des différentes conférence parallèles au «Sommet des leaders des économies de l'APEC».

Programme provisoire:

Vendredi 14 novembre

11:00: Conférence de presse
pavillon Thérèse Casgrain, salle W 2225
Exposition de photos et de toiles de l'Asie

18h00 Inscription

19h00 Salle AM-050, pavillon Hubert-Aquin
L'intégration néo-libérale : De l'ALENA à l'APEC:

- Noam Chomsky (USA, entrevue vidéo)
- Tony Tujan (Philippines)
- Cai Chonguo (Chine)
- Ofelia Herrera Chávez (Front zapatiste-Mexique)
- Pierre Paquette (Québec-Canada)

Samedi 15 novembre

9h00: Inscription

10h00 : *Les luttes de résistance des peuples des pays membres de l'APEC*

Bloc A (traduction simultanée)
Salle AM-050, pavillon Hubert-Aquin

- Cai Chonguo (Chine) Les luttes des travailleurs-euses en Chine
- Gerry Pascal — Les luttes autochtones au Québec et la dérèglementation de l'énergie
- Naomi Klein (Canada) — Les luttes contre les multinationales

Bloc B (en français)
Salle NM-120, pavillon Sciences juridiques

- Tenzin Jimpa (Tibet) - La lutte du peuple tibétain
- Maria Solana da Conceição Soares (Timor oriental) La lutte des Timorais
- Marie Boti (Canada)- Femmes immigrantes et travailleuses domestiques

12h00: Dîner (reprise du message vidéo de Noam Chomsky)

14:00 : Salle AM 050, Pavillon Hubert-Aquin
Georges Lebel (Canada), Jaio Vacario Neto (Brésil) Présentation du projet de la Charte populaire des libertés politiques et des droits socio-économiques des peuples de l'APEC

14:30: Comités de travail thématiques au pavillon Hubert-Aquin

A-2615 • Commerce équitable : Laure Waridel et François Meloche (Canada)

A-2660 • Droits sociaux et droits humains : Titos Escueta (HK), Andre Francovich (Australie)

A-2680 • Souveraineté nationale et développement démocratique : Dorval Brunelle (Canada), Maria Solana da Conceição Soares (Timor oriental)

A-2730 • Droit à la terre et sécurité alimentaire : Représentant du FZLN (Mexique), Robert St-Amant (Québec)

AM-050 • Emploi et droits des travailleurs-euses : Joy de Guzman (HK), Jaio Vacario Neto (Brésil)

A-2770 • Développement durable et environnement: Johan Saravanamuttu (Malaisie) et Marc Bonhomme (Canada)

16h45 : Plénière synthèse
Salle AM 050, pavillon Hubert-Aquin

17h30 : Adoption de la Charte

19h00 : Soirée de solidarité au bar L'Après-cours

- Danses asiatiques, musique, théâtre sur la mondialisation.

Registration form :

Name ________________________
Organisation ________________________
Address ________________________
____
Phone No. ________________________
FAX no. ________________________
E-mail ________________________

Please choose a workshop:

☐ Fair trade
☐ National sovereignty and democratic development
☐ Social rights and human rights
☐ Right to land and food security
☐ Employment and workers' rights
☐ Sustainable development and the environment

- All conferences free
- Friday evening session: free admission.
- Saturday evening solidarity program: voluntary contribution.

Documentation fees :

- Regular:....................................$10.00
  low-income persons : ....$ 5.00

ANTIDEMOCRATIC, EXCLUSIONARY AND NON-SUSTAINABLE

Three specific problems with the type of globalization promoted by APEC are being kept off the agenda of the Vancouver APEC Leaders Summit. These are the lack of democratic participation, the consolidation of exclusionary social processes and the abandonment of environmental sustainability as a development criterion.

Forum populaire sur l'APEC
3680 Jeanne-Mance #440
Montréal (Québec) H2X 2K5

Phone: (514) 982-6606
#2256
Fax: (514) 982-6122
E-mail :
apec@alternatives.ca

PARLIAMENT OF APEC PEOPLES

APEC:

«Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation»: A forum which brings together 18 countries - including Canada, the United States, Japan and China -, represents 56% of the world's GNP and aims to liberalize economic trade and investments in time for the year 2020.

NOVEMBER 14 AND 15
U Q A M
1225 St-Denis, Pavillon
Hubert Aquin, Room AM-050

Seven years ago, the governments of Pacific Asia, the United States and Canada created APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) in order to establish free trade and free investment zone, without tariff barriers, in time for the year 2020.

The combined economies of APEC's 18 member countries account for 56% of the world's GNP (14 trillion dollars) and for over 46% of the world's commercial transactions.

Canada will be hosting an APEC Leaders' Summit on November 24 and 25 in Vancouver. The APEC Peoples Parliament wishes to adopt an APEC Peoples' Charter which will be presented in Vancouver, in the context of the various conferences organized in parrallel to the «APEC Economies Leaders' Summit».

Draft Schedule

Friday, November 14

11 a.m.:	Press conference and Launching of activities, Room W-2225 Exhibition of photographs and paintings of Asia
7 p.m.	Room AM-050, Pavillon Hubert Aquin ***Neo-liberal integration: From NAFTA to APEC*** • Noam Chomsky (USA), video message • Tony Tujan (Phillipines) • Cai Chonguo (China) • Ofelia Herrera Chávez (Zapatist Front-Mexico) • Pierre Paquette (Québec-Canada)

Saturday, November 15

9 a.m.	Registration
10 a.m.	***Peoples' Resistance Struggles in APEC Countries*** **Bloc A** (with simultaneous translation), Room AM-050, Hubert-Aquin Hall • Cai Chonguo (China) — Workers' struggles in China • Gerry Pascal (Quebec) — Indigenous Struggles in Québec and Energy Deregulation. • Naomi Klein (Canada) — Anti-Corporate Activism in the APEC context **Bloc B** (in French), Room NM-120, Hubert-Aquin Hall • Tenzin Jimpa (Tibet) — The struggle of the Tibetan people • Maria Solena da Conceição Soares (East Timor) — The Timorese struggle • Marie Boti (Canada) — Immigrant women and domestic workers
Noon	Lunch (second screening of Noam Chomsky's message)
2 p.m.	Room AM-050, Hubert-Aquin Hall • Georges Lebel (Canada), Jaio Vacario Neto (Brazil) Presentation of the Popular Charter of Political Freedoms and Socio-economic Rights of APEC peoples
2:30 p.m.	Thematic sub-committees (Hubert-Aquin Hall)
A-2615	• Fair trade: Laure Waridel and François Meloche (Canada)
A-2660	• Social rights and human rights: Titos Escueta (Hong Kong), Andre Francovich (Australia)
A-2680	• National sovereignty and democratic development: Dorval Brunelle (Québec), Maria Solana da Conceição Soares (East Timor)
A-2730	• Right to land and food security: Ofelia Herrera Chávez (Mexico), Robert St-Amant (Québec)
AM-050	• Employment and workers' rights: Joy de Guzman (Hong Kong), Jaio Vacario Neto (Brazil)
A-2770	• Sustainable development and the environment: Johan Saravanamuttu (Malaysia) and Marc Bonhomme (Canada)
4:45 p.m.	Plenary (AM-050)
5:30 p.m.	Adoption of Charter
7 p.m.	Evening of solidarity - At L'Après-Cour Bar-UQAM • Asian dances, music and a play on globalization.

Des Zapatistes aux travailleurs chinois

Un colloque à l'UQAM s'attaque aux effets du néolibéralisme à l'approche du sommet Asie-Pacifique de Vancouver

CLÉMENT TRUDEL
LE DEVOIR

Des méfaits du néolibéralisme, il est amplement question depuis hier soir à l'UQAM (Université du Québec à Montréal) où l'on esquisse jusqu'à ce soir les traits du *«nouveau visage de la mondialisation»*. Noam Chomsky y est mis à contribution — il a envoyé un message sur vidéocassette. Nombre d'autres militants moins connus rendent témoignage, lors de ce forum organisé par Alternatives qui appuie l'idée d'une charte des peuples à proposer aux pays qui, depuis sept ans, forment l'APEC (Coopération de l'Asie Pacifique). Cet organisme tient sa prochaine réunion à Vancouver, les 24 et 25 novembre.

Les organisateurs de cette rencontre signalent que l'APEC tient ses assises alors que l'on constate l'abandon de trois objectifs qui tiennent à cœur aux peuples qui entrent en résistance aux conséquences du néolibéralisme: participation démocratique, lutte à l'exclusion sociale et programmes menant à un développement environnemental durable.

De la Chine, Cai Chungguo traite sous l'angle de droits bafoués des travailleurs. Tenzin Jimpa se chargera d'exposer la question du Tibet. On peut aussi entendre des témoignages sur le Timor oriental, sur la Malaisie, sur le Brésil (droit à la terre et à la sécurité alimentaire), sur le Mexique, sur les peuples autochtones du Canada, sur le commerce dit équitable et sur le sort réservé aux immigrantes, particulièrement lorsqu'il s'agit de domestiques suexploitées.

Du Mexique, une jeune étudiante de Morelia (Michoacan), Ofelia Herrera Chavez, traite sous l'angle de ces nombreux comites civils autonomes qui ont joint le tout récent Front zapatiste de libération nationale (FZLN) qui a vu le jour à l'invitation du sous-commandant Marcos, de l'Armée zapatiste de libération nationale à la source du soulèvement au Chiapas le 1er janvier 1994), jour d'entrée en vigueur du traité de libre-échange entre le Canada, le Mexique et les États-Unis (ALÉNA).

En entrevue avant l'ouverture du forum sur l'APEC, Mme Herrera a rappelé que le tout premier objectif de sa visite ici est de présenter *«une face de la situation mexicaine... bien éloignée des points de vue officielles»*. Le FZLN insiste pour que soient respectés les accords de San Andres et accuse le pouvoir central de ruser quant à sa soit-disant *«ouverture»*. La victoire, le 6 juillet, dans le District fédéral, de l'équipe de Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas serait l'exemple d'un gage d'ouverture? En réalité le pouvoir *«permet la création et les agissements de groupes paramilitaires au Chiapas... nous sommes sur le point de déboucher sur une guerre civile»*, dit Ofelia Herrera. Cette étudiante croit que toute différence d'ordre politique ou religieux est exploitée par les tenants du statu quo pour *«consolider la guerre de basse intensité»* au Chiapas, région où des assassins ont ciblé ces jours-ci deux pasteurs évangéliques chamulas.

Affirmant ne pas avoir le mandat de s'exprimer officiellement au nom du FZLN, Mme Herrera fait état d'un vaste consensus pour condamner l'attentat dirigé, le 4 novembre, contre l'évêque de San Cristobal, Mgr Samuel Ruiz, et son coadjuteur Raúl Vera.

Le Front zapatiste de libération nationale est le bras politique de l'armée zapatiste (EZLN); ses liens avec les insurgés sont plutôt lâches. Le 6 novembre, par exemple, à l'Université ouvrière de la ville de Mexico, quelque 300 délégués du Front ont choisi d'organiser, le 20 novembre, en collaboration avec d'autres organisations nationales et internationales, une caravane qui gagnera le Chiapas, signe tangible de solidarité avec les zapatistes au profit desquels on a organisé un vaste bazar.

Initialement, Mme Herrera avait tendance à croire que seuls des Mexicains s'organisaient pour contester le nélolibéralisme *«mais selon les discussions que nous avons ici, je vois qu'il en est de même ici, le libre-échange ayant été synonyme de déboires pour tous, sauf peut-être pour les millionnaires»*.

LE DEVOIR, 18 Nov. 97

Des choses qui n'intéressent pas les médias

Bon nombre d'activistes soutiennent qu'on est en passe de vider le concept de démocratie de toute substance et qu'on tend de plus en plus à vivre dans une sorte de ploutocratie consentie. Il y a de quoi s'inquiéter. Car qui dit démocratie, dit régime politique dans lequel chacun peut prendre une part significative dans la prise de décisions qui concernent le vivre-ensemble. Cela suppose que les gens soient informés, qu'ils puissent se faire entendre et que leur voix soit entendue et prise en compte. Ces jours-ci, l'actualité fournit une importante matière à réflexion à qui s'intéresse à ces questions.

Normand Baillargeon

◆ ◆ ◆

Depuis hier et pour quelques jours seulement, des audiences publiques se tiennent à Ottawa sur l'Accord multilatéral d'investissement. Voilà une farce monumentale. Le public, qui ignore à peu près tout de cet accord d'une complexité inouïe et qui s'est d'ailleurs négocié à huis clos, est invité à aller à Ottawa — notez bien: pas l'inverse! — pour se faire entendre, mais sans qu'il ait eu le temps de se préparer et de se former un jugement. Procéder démocratiquement aurait supposé que tout soit mis en œuvre pour faire connaître l'entente. On serait ensuite allé rencontrer les gens en leur donnant de réelles, nombreuses et substantielles occasions de se faire entendre, en mettant tout en œuvre pour que soient compris les enjeux.

Le public, je pense, aurait refusé cet accord qui va sanctionner, au delà de tout ce qu'on a vu à ce jour, la mainmise des margoulins sur le monde, le recul des droits des travailleurs, de la protection de l'environnement, de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme.

Mais ne me croyez pas sur parole. Un site Internet existe sur l'AMI: http://www.flora.org/mai-not.

À peu près au même moment va se tenir, à Vancouver, le sommet de l'APEC. Or, qui sait vraiment ce qu'est l'APEC? Pas le public. Mais les organismes de margoulins, leurs *think-tanks*, leurs groupes de pression, le savent fort bien. Le Business Advisory Council de l'APEC est au courant, lui qui conseille les gouvernements sur ce qu'il faut faire pour satisfaire leurs besoins, sur les dérégularisations à réaliser prioritairement. Les vendeurs d'armes dans cette région du monde, où ce marché est en pleine explosion, le savent aussi. Les entreprises canadiennes qui viennent, par l'entremise de Storgaard and Associates, de réunir 9 120 000 $ pour les activités annuelles de l'APEC, sont également au courant. Et elles ont bien raison, ces banques, ces compagnies, de se payer des réceptions avec le gouvernement et les membres de l'APEC, d'acheter leur statut de VIP aux événements, dîners, réceptions, salons et ainsi de suite. Il paraîtrait même que le président Suharto va venir, les 24 et 25 novembre, à Vancouver. Ce sera super de bouffer avec un des pires criminels du siècle. Et Suharto peut être tanquille: on n'en profitera pas pour lui faire le procès qu'il mérite pour crimes contre l'humanité. Le public ignore tout ça. Mais il va l'apprendre, de plus en plus. À la dure. Comme les pauvres et les activistes des Philippines où s'est tenu le précédent sommet de l'APEC; comme les travailleurs d'un peu partout dans le monde, comme ces enfants philippins qui travaillent et qui, à 60 %, sont exposés à des substances chimiques et biologiques dangereuses. Et comme ceux qui crèvent tués par des armes qu'on vend, ces armes qu'on vend même aux amis de nos ennemis puisque ce sont nos clients et que le client a toujours raison.

La démocratie est à ce point vidée de substance qu'il est même à peine devenu nécessaire de se cacher pour affirmer ses valeurs et ses pratiques d'insatiable ploutocrate. Voyez par exemple le bilan de la mission de Team Quebec en Chine qu'ont dressé à Shanghai les gens d'affaires et Lucien Bouchard, en présence d'André Bérard.

M. Bérard, de la Banque Nationale, est bien content du succès remporté par nos petites entreprises en Chine. Tout ce beau monde est de retour au pays avec un *«sentiment de fierté»*, assure-t-il. Il faut que ça se sache. Et comme les médias ne le disent pas assez, comme les médias ne répercutent qu'insuffisamment la vison des choses de tout ce beau monde (*sic*!), il leur a suggéré de s'acheter de la publicité. Insatiables, qu'ils sont. Posséder presque tous les journaux ne leur suffit pas. *«De la publicité, quand on ne s'en fait pas faire naturellement, on s'en achète. Allez vous achetez une couple de bons articles.»*

L'organistion du voyage était bonne. Il valait mieux: c'est que *«les dirigeants d'entreprise sont habitués de se faire obéir au doigt et à l'œil»*. Surtout du gouvernement, on avait remarqué: voyez l'AMI, voyez l'APEC. Drôle comme tout en plus, M. Bérard. *«De bonnes petites PME québécoises qui ont 12 000 $ de profits déclarés et qui ont un standing de vie de trois millions et demi.»* Les gens d'affaires se sont mis à rire et à applaudir, rapporte la Presse Canadienne.

Ça ne vous fait pas rire, chômeur? Assisté social? Mère monoparentale? Travailleur au salaire minimum? Étudiant endetté? Vous avez raison: c'est de l'humour de pauvre type, d'insatiable qui se fout comme de votre dernière chaussette des droits de l'homme, des chômeurs, des assistés sociaux et autres exclus d'ici, ou de tout là-bas, en Chine ou ailleurs, et qui est déterminé à aller pressurer quand vous, vous n'avez plus assez à donner.

Nous sommes nombreux, de plus en plus nombreux, M. Bérard, à n'avoir pas de sentiment de fierté devant tout cela et au contraire à en avoir honte; et vos blagues d'insatiables nantis où se lisent à mots à peine couverts vos turpitudes, vos tricheries, vos évasions fiscales, votre appétit infini de pouvoir et d'argent qui ne se satisfait qu'en écrasant tout le monde, au mépris des valeurs les plus élémentaires, tout cela, voyez-vous, ne fait plus rire que vous.

◆ ◆ ◆

Youppi! Wei Jingsheng est libre. Certains d'entre vous, amis lecteurs, aviez écrit en Chine pour lui. Je lève un verre à votre santé.

bain@lol.shareworld.com

Lyle Stewart

Borderlines

Official fictions

In Indonesia-occupied East Timor, among other hazards, students have to be on guard against bullets that fall out of the sky.

That's the only possible conclusion to draw from official Indonesian government statements that soldiers fired only into the sky to disperse a demonstration last Friday at the university in the Timorese capital of Dili. But somehow several students suffered bullet wounds, and two were killed.

It's much like the official story of this week's Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation conference in Vancouver, where we will welcome Indonesian dictator Suharto to Canada with handshakes, photo-ops and bended-knee entreaties for business contracts.

Because APEC is only a collection of "economies" and not "states," human rights are off-topic. It's a *clin d'oeil* that allows China and Taiwan to sit at the same table, but also has the convenient intellectual contortion that says trade is somehow divorced from the political realities on the ground.

Indonesian President Suharto: Welcome to Canada, have a nice stay

APEC isn't an international treaty or a trading bloc à la NAFTA or the European Union. It operates through a series of leaders and ministerial meetings, scripted by officials and coordinated by its Singaporean secretariat. Each year the forum is chaired by a different member economy. In 1995 it was Japan, last year the Philippines chaired APEC, this year it's Canada's turn and, in 1999, New Zealand's.

Because of its informal nature, actual government legislation isn't required – legislation that, at least on the western edge of the Pacific, might be open to public scrutiny and debate.

That doesn't make the body's deliberations any less political, however. APEC is all about spreading free-trade ideology – an ideology that justifies the most appalling labour and human-rights conditions. Indeed, one can make the argument that free trade *demands* those conditions.

Free trade, of course, is a euphemism for freedom from governmental restrictions on multinational corporations. As Indian environmentalist and scientist Vandana Shiva has pointed out, all areas have become "trade related." You can put the term "trade-related" in front of anything and draw "areas of domestic decision-making into the global arena."

Thus APEC promotes minimal controls on big business, unrestricted foreign investment, unlimited export of profits, privatization of state assets and services, deregulated markets, competitive (i.e., low-cost, deunionized) and flexible (temporary, part-time and contract-based) labour markets and free movement for business immigrants while retaining strict controls on foreign workers and refugees.

In short APEC, like NAFTA, inspires a race to the bottom in environmental, health and safety standards, wages and human rights in order to attract foreign investment. This fabled "level playing field" bottoms out in the squalid, environmentally dangerous *maquiladoras* along the US border in Northern Mexico or the child-labour sweatshops of Bangkok.

Nonetheless, we're told that what's good for the multinational corporations is good for everyone, and that economic growth should be pursued for its own sake, regardless of the social or environmental costs.

And that's why APEC has to work in a very secretive and unaccountable manner. There is absolutely no opportunity for citizen input.

As the statement from the NGO forum on APEC in Kyoto noted last year, "Economic issues cannot be divorced from the complex realities of people's daily lives. Yet APEC is described as a community of economies which bears no responsibility for the social, political or cultural consequences of the decisions its members make. This artificial distinction allows the APEC process to operate in a totally anti-democratic, unaccountable and untransparent way."

Thus APEC's narrow focus on trade and economic issues insulates it from its social, environmental, political and anti-democratic impacts. And Canada under the federal Liberals is in the forefront of pushing that focus. Viewed through the prism of cutbacks to social services and the secret negotiations of the Multilateral Agreement on Investment, it seems obvious, if incredible, that our government is pushing us down the road of these quasi-slave labour states.

While the world may be divided between rich and poor countries, internally the phenomenon is being reproduced within wealthier states like Canada. As the moral legitimacy of our government withers away, it becomes imaginable that its behaviour may some day more closely resemble that of its trading partners on the western edge of the Pacific.

The students at last week's demonstration in Dili were there to commemorate the victims of the 1991 massacre that killed up to 200 when Indonesian soldiers opened fire on a funeral procession. But because APEC is officially a gathering of "economies," and not governments with soldiers and weapons, that massacre didn't officially happen. And yet somehow it seems these kinds of things are necessary for the world of NAFTA, APEC, GATT, or whatever acronym you want to use.

So I had to wrinkle my nose at the rank smell of hypocrisy as I listened to an APEC apologist brush off concerns about human rights this week on CBC Radio. The oriental tradition of putting emphasis on "collective," rather than individual, rights meant countries like Indonesia or China shouldn't be held to the same standard.

That's so much self-serving nonsense. If "collective" rights meant a commitment to proper housing, working or environmental conditions, there might be an argument to make. But they don't, and the collective-rights argument is a tattered fig leaf to cover up the worst imaginable abuses. In the end, perhaps, that's what APEC is all about. ■

stewart@voir.ca

Le sommet des pays de la zone Asie-Pacifique

L'APEC se cherche un leadership clair

Des manifestants plus visibles que les participants

Des entretiens entre les ministres des Affaires étrangères et du Commerce de 18 pays riverains du Pacifique sont engagés depuis hier à Vancouver, en prélude au sommet proprement dit, lundi et mardi. Les pays de l'APEC sont soumis à d'intenses pressions pour sortir les pays asiatiques de leur tourmente financière et monétaire. Cette crise a bouleversé l'ordre du jour de la réunion, qui devait initialement porter sur la libéralisation du commerce. Par ailleurs, des organisations non gouvernementales opposées en tout ou en partie aux projets de l'APEC se sont également activées depuis quelques jours.

CLAUDE LÉVESQUE
LE DEVOIR

En parcourant les grands magazines d'information et les fils des agences de presse cette semaine, on avait peine à croire qu'un sommet des principaux pays de la zone Asie Pacifique allait s'ouvrir lundi prochain à Vancouver. En multipliant les manifestations au Canada, les opposants à l'APEC, ce «Forum» de coopération Asie-Pacifique voué à un vaste projet libre-échangiste, ont par contre assez bien réussi à attirer l'attention.

Évidemment, il existe des problèmes plus urgents à régler que l'établissement d'une zone de libre-échange entre les années 2010 et 2020. Surtout sur la rive asiatique de l'océan, qui se relève d'un véritable typhon financier et monétaire.

Une autre raison pouvant expliquer ce désintérêt réside dans le fait que l'APEC ne semble pas disposer d'un leadership clair. Pour des raisons historiques — le passé militariste du premier et le déficit de la seconde en matière de démocratie et de respect des droits de l'homme — le Japon et la Chine ne sont pas pleinement habilités, moralement, à jouer ce rôle. Quant aux Etats-Unis, qui appuient pourtant le projet de libre-échange régional, à l'instar de leurs partenaires «anglo-saxons» (Australie, Nouvelle-Zélande et Canada), ils semblent hésiter à jouer pleinement le rôle de leader qui devrait leur incomber et ce, par manque d'une stratégie claire dans le Pacifique depuis la fin de la guerre froide.

«Agendas» en conflit

En outre, comme le souligne Dominique Caouette, chercheur associé au Centre d'étude sur les régions en développement de l'Université McGill, plusieurs «agendas» entrent en conflit au sein de l'APEC. Ainsi, le premier ministre malaysien Mahatir Mohamad opte plutôt pour un renforcement de la zone de libre-échange de l'ANASE (Association des nations de l'Asie du Sud-Est). Sa méfiance risque d'être avivée par la crise monétaire dans laquel il a vu la main des spéculateurs de l'Occident. Le Japon, pour sa part, s'intéresse beaucoup à un projet de libre-échange asiatique, un futur «AFTA».

Plusieurs ONG de [redacted] t de [redacted] fense des droits de l'homme se sont ligués contre l'APEC. Toutes s'entendent pour déplorer le refus de cette organisation de lier la question des droits à la promotion des échanges commerciaux. Certaines s'opposent au principe même du libre-échange. *«Les États qui se sont développés en Extrême-Orient l'ont fait derrière des burrières tarifaires»*, fait remarquer Dominique Caouette, dans une allusion au Japon et à la Corée du Nord. Selon ces ONG, le projet libre-échangiste de l'APEC menacerait la croissance économique des pays en développement de la zone, en forçant les États à limiter leurs interventions. C'est l'État et non le marché qui peut jouer un rôle de redistribution de la richesse, estime-t-on.

Micheal To, président de la Fédération pour la démocratie en Chine, une ONG basée à Paris, n'est pas aussi radical. Il ne s'oppose ni à l'existence de l'APEC ni à son projet libre-échangiste. Il croit plutôt aux vertus du dialogue entre l'Orient et l'Occident, surtout à la lumière de la récente crise monétaire. Tout en émettant des réserves sur l'orientation et l'action du forum Asie-Pacifique jusqu'à ce jour, il indique que des pays comme le Canada et les Etats-Unis pourraient fort bien aider les pays touchés à assainer et leur économie et leur cadre institutionnel. L'expertise occidentale pourrait bénéficier à tous les pays en développement de la zone, y compris la Chine, estime M. To. *«Il ne suffit pas d'injecter de l'argent.»*

Droits de l'homme

Sur la question des droits de la personne dans son pays d'origine, Michael To croit disposer d'informations selon lesquelles Pékin libér[redacted]cert[redacted]issi[redacted]em[redacted]nés[redacted] l'occasion du sommet de l'APEC, comme i l'avait fait après la visite du président Jiang aux États-Unis. (On parle de la remise en liberte de Wei Jingsheng.)

«Bien que nous nous réjouissions de tels gestes il ne faudrait pas que le régime emprisonne ensuite autant de dissidents qu'il en a libérés pour s'en servir comme monnaie d'échange dans ses négociations futures avec les pays occidentaux, avertit M. To. *Ces libérations à la pièce ne témoignent pas d'un changement d'attitude.»*

L'APEC regroupe 18 pays aux régimes politiques très différents, allant de la démocratie parlementaire nord-américaine au régime de parti unique chinois, en passant par la monarchie autoritaire du sultan de Bruneï.

La violence politique que certains pays membres exercent à l'encontre de leurs citoyens est bien documentée et largement dénoncée, en particulier celles de la Chine dans le territoire annexé du Tibet et de l'Indonésie au Timor oriental. Les groupes opposés à l'APEC affirment aussi que le libre-échange menace plus globalement les libertés, notamment syndicales, par l'ouverture de zones franches pour les investisseurs dans des pays comme l'Indonésie.

Le jargon officiel veut que l'APEC regroupe des «économies» plutôt que des pays. Cette subtilité sémantique a permis à la Chine, et à Taïwan de s'asseoir à une même table. Les pays membres de l'APEC ne signent pas de traités, mais s'engagent, au terme de leurs consultations, à réaliser chacubn de son côté, certains objectifs en matière de libéralisation commerce. Dominique Caouette voit dans cette dépolitisation une façon de réduire le droit [redacted] re[redacted] ci[redacted]

Ah bon, M. Marchi?

LE DEVOIR
25 nov 97

Normand
Baillargeon

◆ ◆ ◆

Sergio Marchi est ministre du Commerce international du Canada. Samedi, il faisait paraître dans *Le Devoir* une lettre défendant la position du gouvernement sur l'Accord multilatéral d'in- s ssement.

Même si j'ai souvent parlé de cet ac rd, je ne me suis pas senti s par sa lettre. C'est que, l n M. Marchi, les cri ques de l'AMI, qui racon n des bêtises, affirment ue cet accord *«sonnera le as d'un Canada indépen nt et prospère»*. Tout son x cherche donc à mon er que ce n'est pas le cas: MI, ça crée de l'emploi et ve plus blanc la souve i té du Canada. Comme LENA avant lui. L'AMI e emble inquiétant sur ces plans, a aussi et surtout sur ceux de la otection de l'environnement, des tra illeurs, des droits de l'homme et de mocratie. Mais restons d'abord r le terrain où nous invite le ministre discutons souveraineté nationale.

n bon exemple est fourni par un s récent que ne peut ignorer M. archi. Depuis 1977, on ajoute à e essence du MMT. Je vous passe m scientifique de la chose, mais produit a été banni par le Parle ent l'an dernier, notamment parce trop polluant. Or, on apprenait le) novembre que la compagnie qui oduit le MMT, Ethyl Corp., se fon a sur l'ALENA, réclame du gou ement canadien une compensa n de 345 millions de dollars. Un tri l d'arbitrage va trancher.

ministre de l'Environnement, au ment où le Canada adoptait cette loi le MMT, s'appelait Sergio Marchi. st déclaré confiant que la loi passe test. Ce n'est pas du tout l'avis de rry Appleton, avocat d'Ethyl Corp. a de bonnes raisons d'être optimis preuve, la décision de la compa e de s'en prendre directement à la lation canadienne et différents ju ents récents dans des causes simi es. Chaque fois, on constate que des ntes de libre-échange font primer erté de commercer sur la souve neté nationale. Le monde est alors livré à l'appétit insatiable de gigantesques tyrannies privées.

Je souhaite bonne chance à l'ancien ministre de l'Environnement, mais j'espère qu'il sait bien que ce qui est prévu par l'ALENA en matière de protection des margoulins n'est rien comparé à ce que prévoit l'AMI. En tout cas, le même M. Appleton le sait très bien, lui. Il est d'ailleurs venu le dire aux auditions sur l'AMI, qui se tiennent à Ottawa. M. Marchi était-il là? M. Appleton a expliqué que le Canada faisait preuve d'inconscience dans ce dossier, notamment en matière de protection de l'environnement, de sa culture, de ses services et de ses programmes sociaux: le Canada va perdre la capacité de protéger tout cela, a-t-il conclu.

◆ ◆ ◆

Des gens vont protester au sommet de l'APEC contre la venue de Suharto. Quand Suharto prend le pouvoir en Indonésie, en 1965, il y aura massacre, en quelques mois, de 700 000 personnes. Quand il décide de se payer le Timor oriental, il y en aura 200 000. Or, M. Marchi n'est pas le seul ministre à avoir pris la plume pour expliquer à ses concitoyens quoi penser de ces merveilleux accords défendant les droits des margoulins à toujours plus de profits. Le ministre des Affaires étrangères d'Indonésie, Ali Alatas, l'a fait lui aussi, dans l'*Indonesian Observer*: notre gouvernement prendra des mesures contre tout citoyen qui participe à des manifestations contre le président Suharto à Vancouver, a-t-il expliqué.

M. Marchi sera-t-il dehors avec les manifestants? J'en doute. Mais il est généreux. La preuve: il a déclaré qu'il ne s'oppose pas à la tenue du sommet populaire sur l'APEC, qui a adopté une charte des droits des peuples. Mieux: il a promis de demander l'examen médical de Muchtar Pakpanan, leader syndical qui crève en cellule sous Suharto. Bravo, vraiment. Un coup parti, je me demande s'il ne pourrait pas toucher un mot au président chinois de cette déclaration de Harry Wu et de Pei Qi Gao devant le Sénat américain, selon laquelle ce gouvernement pratique la vente d'organes de condamnés à mort: on tue le condamné au moment où on a besoin de ses organes pour un receveur compatible. La balle va dans la tête si on a besoin d'un rein; dans le cœur s'il nous faut une rétine. Les organes coûtent 30 000 $. Avis aux intéressés.

Mais j'ai des doutes. Car à aucun moment la lettre de M. Marchi n'évoque les droits de l'homme. Et lorsque la question de la démocratie du processus de négociation de l'AMI est abordée, si M. Marchi reconnaît qu'il faut *«tenir compte des préoccupations des Canadiens»*, il précise: *«C'est pourquoi le gouvernement consulte les parlementaires, les provinces, le milieu des affaires et les organisations non gouvernementales.»* Et les citoyens? Se sont glissés dans les organisations non gouvernementales, faut croire, évoqués en dernier lieu. Ces citoyens sont informés par des journaux contrôlés en majorité par Conrad Black; quelques-uns manifesteront dans la rue, au sommet de l'APEC, ou se rendront à Ottawa pour dire un mot sur l'AMI. On saura bien ne pas trop entendre ce bruit qu'ils font, je pense. Par exemple, cette déclaration d'ouverture de la Charte des droits des peuples adoptée par le Forum populaire sur l'APEC: *«Solidairement avec ceux qui luttent, nous réclamons le respect des droits fondamentaux des peuples à un niveau de vie suffisant, à la santé, à l'éducation et au travail dans une société qui promeuve l'égalité, la solidarité et la démocratie et mette en œuvre le droit au développement, à la paix et au développement durable.»*

À côté de quoi le ministre nous cause Canada indépendant et prospère. Mais pas Canadiens les mains pleines de sang, qui seraient horrifiés d'apprendre ce qu'on fait parfois en leur nom. Mais le ministre a raison sur un point: l'AMI l'APEC, ce sera bon pour l'indépendance et la prospérité... de ceux qui boufferont ce soir avec Suharto.

◆ ◆ ◆

Un rendez-vous: Rassemblement pour une alternative politique, 28 et 29 novembre, Cégep Maisonneuve Avec Lauzon, Chartrand, Ferretti Victor-Lévy Beaulieu et d'autres. ☎ 514-843-5236.

bain@lol.shareworld.com

Canadian investments buy human rights horror in East Timor

Environmental and cultural destruction a by-product of the need for crude oil in the Pacific

By Chris Allen

Indonesian police torture East Timorese

www.dayworld.net.au

Violent crimes such as rape and murder were virtually unknown in the Portuguese colony of East Timor before 1975, reported Elaine Briere in her film *Bitter Paradise: The Sell-out of East Timor*. All that changed on December 7, 1975, when Indonesia carried out a brutal air, naval and overland assault on the remote island off the north-west coast of Australia. Since then, East Timor has been plagued by military occupation, forced sterilization and numerous human rights abuses.

> *"That we are participating in this atrocity is shocking, and it would shock Canadians if they were well aware of it."*
>
> *— Noam Chomsky*

Bitter Paradise: The Sell-out of East Timor was screened at Concordia on November 14 by the regional chapter of the East Timor Alert Network (ETAN). Briere, a Canadian photographer, went to East Timor in 1974 because she had heard that it was relatively unaffected by the outside world. Many anthropologists, she claims, went to East Timor to study its cultures, which were considered to be intact.

"It was full of delightful little villages, surrounded by gardens and jungle. It was idyllic, and the people showed a great respect for the natural environment. They were gracious and dignified, kind and hospitable to strangers."

Indeed, pre-invasion footage included in Briere's film displays a radiant, self-sufficient people. The society included small agrarian communities of 20 to 25 families linked by a market. Families lived simply in elevated straw huts. Tourism, industrial development and corporatism were foreign concepts. Briere recalls being unable to find a single hotel in East Timor at the time.

Despite its status as a colony, East Timor was relatively free from Portuguese interference. Early in 1975, political turmoil in Portugal led to the East Timorese declaration of independence.

East Timor's innocence was overshadowed by its large, offshore oil reserves. Australia openly favoured Indonesia's take-over of East Timor in order to facilitate exploitation of the crude oil.

Shortly after East Timor attained its independence, Indonesia's President Suharto declared his intention to annex the island with the use of military force.

Maria Solana Soares, an East Timorese refugee in Portugal since 1989, spoke after the film. She was born in 1966 in the East Timorese capital, Dili, and remembers being awoken at dawn on December 7, 1975 by the sound of bombs falling on her city.

"My father warned us about what was going on. We were not allowed to go out, because the military was everywhere. To protect ourselves from gunfire, we were ordered to hide under the table...There was nowhere else to hide."

Immediately following the attack, the United Nations held an emergency vote to condemn the invasion — a vote from which Canada abstained. Nonetheless, the UN has never recognized Indonesia's claim to East Timor.

Briere was surprised at Canada's ambivalence to the horror committed against the Timorese.

"Like many Canadians, I wasn't aware of the close connections between the Suharto regime and Canada."

Suharto came to Canada six months before the invasion of East Timor to hold meetings with Pierre Trudeau. "They [the federal government] knew what was going to happen, and they did nothing. They sold out the principles that Canada holds as an international peacemaker," Briere commented.

Noam Chomsky, a professor of linguistics at MIT and a political activist is interviewed in the film. He states that oil was the issue that sparked the invasion.

The film also features disturbing scenes in which federal government ministers, including former Prime Minister Joe Clark, side-step the issue of the continued occupation of East Timor in favour of promoting greater Canadian investment in Indonesia.

Chomsky affirms that "the idea that we are participating in this atrocity is shocking, and it would shock Canadians if they were well aware of it."

> *Total Canadian investment in East Timor is estimated to be $3 billion*

When asked why Canadians are not informed about East Timor's predicament, he added, "The press is not in the business of letting people know how power works, and it would be utterly crazy to expect them to. They're part of our [corporate] system."

Meanwhile, reports of Timorese rape, torture, and murder flow in regularly from human rights watchdogs. President Suharto's agenda in East Timor has also included the sterilization of indigenous Timorese and the mass emigration of native Indonesians to Timor.

"Women were sexually abused, burnt with cigarettes, and given electric shocks," said Soares. "Some of them had been forced to have Indonesian soldiers' babies."

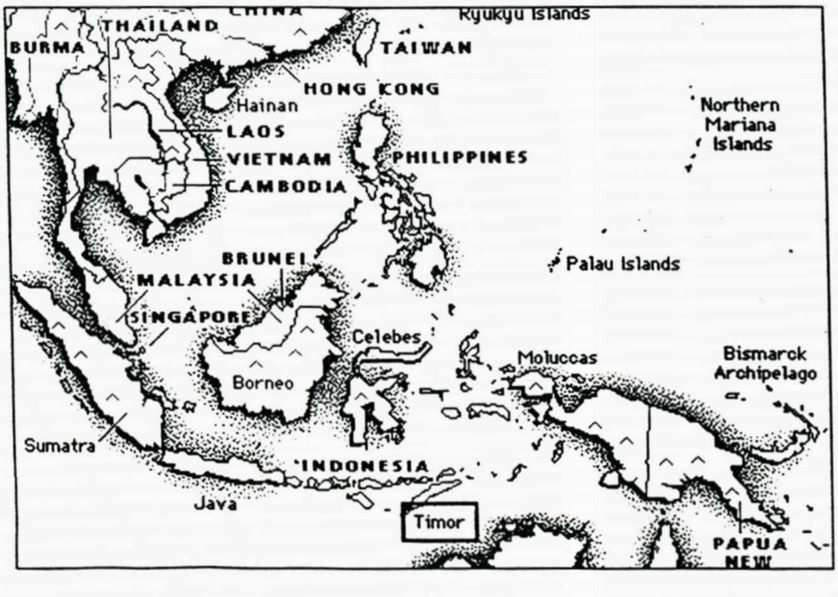
Soares added that "before the invasion, we were several hundred thousand people [as a] population. Now there are only 40,000 Timorese."

Observers in the film noted that the capacity of the Timorese to grow food has been severely undermined, resulting in the gradual death of their culture. In addition, the Suharto regime attempts to keep East Timor completely cut off from the outside world.

But the Timorese are persistent, and have refused to give in to Indonesian rule. In Dili, peaceful demonstrations are staged when foreign journalists are present, but they are almost always met by gunfire. Earlier this year, President Suharto told the UN's special envoy Jamsheed Marker that "East Timor's status as Indonesia's 27th province is non-negotiable."

Briere questions the motives of Canadian businesses operating in Indonesia while East Timor's misery remains unaddressed. Spokesmen from most companies interviewed, however, generally knew little about East Timor. One representative admitted that there are a complex array of Canadian government services available for corporations wanting to invest or sell their products in Indonesia, but no information on the situation in East Timor.

Total Canadian investment in Indonesia is estimated at $3 billion. Canada's most prominent representation in East Timor comes from INCO Ltd. of Toronto, which has developed a large mining and smelting complex in Sulawesi. Another Toronto-based company, Bata Shoes, has opened a retail store in Dili. Just what the Timorese need.



McGill Daily, Vol. 87, Issue 36, Monday Dec 1. 97

Keeping Us In The Dark

APEC summit misrepresented in the media

by Julien Lapointe

Last week in Vancouver, the eighteen Pacific Rim leaders held their planned summit meeting. Much of the ensuing critical debate (I use these terms lightly) in the mainstream press has been predicated on the assumption that the financial problems besetting many of the respective countries somehow is of a prominent concern to these leaders. Hence, reporting on the current state of this "Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation" concurrently explains that there is a prevailing doubt over the worth of the foreseen financial plan.

The Asia-Pacific government leaders seek to abolish tariffs and open a free trade zone between their countries by the year 2020. As officially reported, the viability of this agenda is being questioned, since a number of the involved countries are in "economic turmoil." However, the questioning has been framed in a manner which is misleading.

In last Wednesday's edition of the *New York Times*, a "News Analysis" falls into the pattern of misinformation. Says the *Times*: "Mr. Ramos alluded to the dangers of developing in Asia feeling that they could be forced back into the colonial status they have worked so hard to shed." The "colonial status" refers to the subordination of President Ramos' country to a political-economic agenda that he feels has been outlined according to American capitalist interests. The rest of the *Times* piece endorses the "strain of anti-Americanism, or at least of anti- imperialism, that is being stoked by the current crisis [throughout the Asia-Pacific region]."

In a similar vein, the pages of *The Globe and Mail* exude mockery towards Chrétien and his hopes that the summit would prove to be something more than a "talk shop" (while "the hard slogging" will be done by the International Monetary Fund (IMF)). The journalists, quite professionally, have based their reporting on a reproachful attitude towards Chrétien, while the more salient issues of human labour rights and environmental interests, pertaining to the other Pacific Rim countries, have been omitted.

This skewed context is in keeping with the *Globe*'s habitual stance on APEC. An article, published last May in the "Report on Business" section, gave full attention to the opinions of APEC representatives, while the voices of opposition forces were glanced at summarily and briefly. Federal Trade Minister Art Eggleton was allowed to conclude the article with the claim that issues of human rights and environmental interests had no place in the discussions among APEC members. As he puts it, quite tellingly: "This is a *trade forum*" [italics mine].

For those who look beyond the clever distortions of the *Times* and the *Globe*, a different story is being told. The *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, almost two years ago, reported how President Ramos, in the scandal following the severe mining accident of Canada's Placer Dome, sided with the corporation to ensure that his country's people remain within a "colonial status." The *Times*, of course, gives no comment to this seeming turn about in thought. One can argue fairly, I think, that Ramos is worried about the privileges of his country's elitist financial forces in the APEC dealings. Conversely, if one considers the huge financial discrepancy between the impoverished populace and the wealthy elites, which Ramos has helped maintain, his comments cited in the *Times* reveal themselves to be absolutely misleading.

Similarly, one wonders how Chrétien or Clinton ever managed to stomach the presence of President Suharto, whose genocidal past and current iron fist reigning over Indonesia ironically make him the ideal member of APEC. The openly "autonomist/anti-imperialist information collective" Toronto based *Arm the Spirit* published a fervent denunciation of Suharto, and his presence in Vancouver. Describing in detail the current political and financial climate in Indonesia, the piece stated: "by joining APEC Suharto is inviting the imperialist countries to banquet on the natural wealth of Indonesia and to drink the blood of the Indonesian people."

The case, although forcefully expressed, isn't overstated. Those who wish to gawk or sneer at the article's open bias should think twice before they dismiss the material as mere propaganda. Suharto's dictatorial régime is a repressive one. As the imprisonment of unionist Muchtar Pakpahan demonstrates, actively voiced social concerns are not tolerated. Human labour and environmental resources are exploited. Military forces help uphold this system, pressuring election voters and parliamentary members into compliance. Is any of this likely to change now that Suharto is participating in the free trade "agreements" of APEC? Or is it that morality has no place in the foreseen economic exchanges among the financially wealthy?

At the APEC Peoples' Forum, held in Montréal already two weeks ago, an important point was raised. With regards to the responsibilities of we North-Americans in the face of APEC, a need was voiced to overcome the "misinforming" perpetrated by much of our media. Everyone will agree, I think, that it is disgusting how Suharto, who twenty years ago was responsible for genocide in East Timor, is still in power and being warmly received within APEC. It is also disgusting, one can persuasively argue, how this essentially elitist coalition involves countries which, to put things mildly, have a rather spotty record as far as human rights are concerned, and will help perpetuate these injustices. Now if that's the case, then what are we to think of two leading national papers which present distorting, biased accounts of these issues, leaving their millions of readers in the dark about the veritable nature of what their countries are involved in?

Roberto Jerónimo: President of The Association of Timorese Ex-Political Prisoners Visits Toronto.

Report by João Rolo - Coordinator of Activities in Toronto

For: Professor Barbedo de Magalhães, Project Sponsor Liaison

Date: January 6th, 1998

Context

Roberto Jerónimo's visit to Toronto was part of a larger campaign organized by the East Timor Alert Network of Canada to draw attention to and take action on the plight of the East Timorese while President Suharto of Indonesia participated in the Asian Pacific Economic Conference in November 1997 in Vancouver,Canada. Eight other Timorese and two Indonesian activists participated in this campaign, but only Roberto visited Toronto. Roberto also visited other cities. With brevity in mind, this report focuses exclusively on Roberto's visit to Toronto. A comprehensive report on the visits of the other Team Timor members to Canada is available from the East Timor Alert Network.

The Toronto hosts

At the time of Roberto's visit the Toronto Chapter of the East Timor Alert Network of Canada, due to its national office coordination duties, could not organize activities for him.

Activities in Toronto were coordinated by a new group of volunteers for East Timor. They are a group of Portuguese Canadian Toronto-based Youth who recently formed the organization ***Voxnova.*** The group is the organized voice of Portuguese Canadian youth affiliated with the Portuguese Canadian National Congress. Roberto's visit acted as a catalyst for the group to launch a new project titled " Projecto Acção Timor" (Project Action Timor). The group is committed to providing Roberto Jerónimo and Prof. Magalhães with updates of its activities on behalf of East Timor in the interest of international solidarity and cooperation.

Roberto's Visit - list of Activities

Roberto arrived on November 13th in the evening and stayed until noon of November 16th.

Prior to his arrival I had sent out media releases and was interviewed by CIUT and CKLN radio stations about his upcoming visit.

On the morning of November 14th Roberto provided an interview to one of the largest weekly Portuguese Language newspapers of Toronto and Canada. Following the interview Roberto had an opportunity to make some phone calls and prepare for a presentation in the evening at the University of Toronto.

Roberto's presentation at the University of Toronto was attended by a group of approximately 30 people some of whom have since started volunteering for East Timor. This talk was particularly important for the members of Voxnova, many of whom did not have a comprehensive knowledge of the situation of East Timor. Roberto's presentation provided them with knowledge and determination to organize education and action activities for East Timor.

On the morning of November 15th Roberto provided an interview for CKLN radio. Later in the day he met with the President of the Portuguese Canadian National Congress and members of its executive. Based on Roberto's presentation, the Congress decided to write a letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, requesting that the Canadian Government not allow President Suharto to enter Canada on the grounds of Canadian War Crimes Legislation. A copy of the Congress letter is enclosed.

In the evening Roberto socialized informally with friends and supporters of East Timor at an event organized at the home of his hosts.

On November 16th, Roberto read at a catholic religious mass for East Timor at which the Timorese youths who had been killed a few days prior by the Indonesian army, were remembered. The mass was attended by between 300 to 400 Portuguese speaking people.

Following the service Roberto had an opportunity to meet with Father Fernando Couto a strong supporter of East Timor.

Roberto left early afternoon of November 16th.

Evaluation

Voxnova would like to thank Prof. Barbedo for the sponsorship provided and Roberto for taking time from his busy schedule to come to Toronto. Roberto's visit to Toronto was extremely successful and important in mobilizing new constituents to act for East Timor. This was revealed both through increased awareness about East Timor and through Direct Action taken on behalf of East Timor by the influential Portuguese Canadian National Congress, through the letter it sent to the Minister of External Affairs.

Another obvious significant positive result of the Roberto's visit to Toronto was the extensive media coverage of his "story" by two English language radio stations and various Portuguese Language newspapers.

The positive results of Roberto's visit to Toronto continue to unfold. Voxnova has passed a resolution to begin preparing now for a Week of Education and Action for East Timor in May 1998. The Portuguese Canadian National Congress will be following up soon on its letter to Foreign Affairs Minister, possibly requesting a meeting with the minister.

To conclude, Voxnova will continue to act for East Timor and is interested in discussing any projects suggested by the Portuguese Government, Universities, and other East Timor Activists in Portugal. If it is within the means of Voxnova, we will help!

In Solidarity and Friendship,

João Rolo
Executive member of Voxnova and
East Timor Alert Network member.

cc. Prof. Barbedo de Magalhães
The Portuguese Canadian National Congress
Dr. António Montenegro, Consul-General of Portugal in Toronto
Zé Roberto Jerónimo
East Timor Alert Network, Canada
Voxnova

encl.
1.Copy of Portuguese Canadian National Congress Letter to Minister of External Affairs.

CONGRESSO NACIONAL LUSO-CANADIANO
PORTUGUESE-CANADIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
CONGRÈS NATIONAL LUSO-CANADIEN

85 GLENDALE AVE., 2nd FLOOR
TORONTO, ONT. M6R 2S8
TEL.: (416) 530-6608
FAX: (416) 530-6612

Dr. Tomás Ferreira
President
nceição do Rosário
-President
Agostinho Bairos
Vice-President (West)
ina De Jesus
-President (Central)
Norberto Aguiar
Vice-President (East)
y Tavares
ctor (Man.)
Regina Calado
Director (B.C.)
Nazaré Lindsay
ctor (Alb.)
Maria Zalasek
Director (Sas.)
nuel Barros
ctor (Central North)
Alvaro Ventura
Director (Central West)
é Carlos A. Rodrigues
ctor (Central East)
Daniel Ribeiro
Director (Central Centre)
nando Reis
ctor (Central Toronto)
ula Pires
Director (Central Youth)
los Batista
ctor (Maritimes)
José Soares
Director (Hull)
entina Barbosa
ctor (Montreal)

November 21, 1997

The Honourable Lloyd Axworthy
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario , K1A OA6
Fax: 1-613-

Dear Minister Axworthy:

The Portuguese Canadian National Congress has recently had the opportunity of meeting with Roberto Seixas Miranda Jerónimo, President of The Association of East Timorese Political Prisoners in Exile, and a member of East Timorese National Council (CNRM) Diplomatic Front led by Nobel Prize recepient, José Ramos Horta. As you may know, Mr. Jerónimo is in Canada accompanying ten other East Timorese and two Indonesian refugees, who are here to ask the Canadian Government to take action on the crimes perpetrated against the Timorese by the Indonesian government and its President, General Suharto.

In particular , Mr. Jerónimo and his team have requested that the Canadian Government honour its international post-holocaust United Nations obligations and its own Immigration Act legislation that calls for the arrest and trial of War Criminals who are on Canadian Soil. Mr. Jerónimo and his team have requested that, in accordance with this legislation Indonesian President, General Suharto should either be denied entry into Canada or alternatively, if Suharto is admitted into Canada, that he be put on trial for War Crimes against the Timorese and people over the last twenty three years and against his own people when he assumed rule of Indonesia.

The Portuguese Canadian National Congress, at its founding convention in 1993, passed a resolution to "assist in whichever manner possible the plight of the Timorese people for their self-determination". The Portuguese Canadian National Congress adopted this view based on a two principles.

Firstly, it is the moral view of our members that the genocide perpetrated against the Timorese people is unacceptable and action must be taken to stop it. As you may be aware, three young Timorese women were shot dead in East Timor by Indonesian soldiers last week and another five Timorese youth are suffering from bullet wounds.

Secondly, East Timor continues to be a colony of Portugal under International law. Our members, many of whom who are dual citizens of Portugal and Canada, believe that East Timor, like all of our past colonies, must be granted the independence to determine its own future. This is a right of any people in a democratic era.

For the reasons listed, the Portuguese Canadian National Congress supports the requests of Mr. Jerónimo and his team. The Portuguese Canadian National Congress further requests that the Canadian Government divest from all current and future commitments in Indonesia,.

We have also been distressed by the knowledge that as Minister of Foreign Affairs, you have authorized the sale of military export permits to Indonesia, even if these did not translate into immediate sales. We find this difficult to understand, particularly considering your membership in the Parliamentarians for East Timor while a member of the official opposition.

We would like to believe that you will not forget your prior commitment to the human rights of the Timorese, including their right to self-determination and that you will act in accordance with this commitment by informing General Suharto and his delegation that the Canadian Government recognizes the illegitimacy of the Indonesian occupation of East Timor and that as a result of this recognition the Canadian Government will henceforth link trade with the human rights of the East Timorese, including the right to self-determination.

The Portuguese Canadian National Congress would like to thank you for recognizing our concerns and taking action to address them. We look forward to your reply.

Yours Truly,

Dr. Tomás Ferreira
Portuguese Canadian National Congress
National President
(copy: not signed)

cc. Hon. Prime Minister Jean Chretien
Hon. Minister for International Trade, Sergio Marchi
Hon. Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Lucienne Robillard
José Ramos Horta - CNRM (Timorese) Leader, Nobel Laureate
Roberto Jerónimo - President of Political Prisoners of Timor in Exile
Ex. Embassador of Portugal - Dr. José Duarte de Jesus
Ex. Consul General of Portugal - Dr. António Montenegro

Timor-Leste: 22 anos de genocídio

Por Luís Galvão
Sol Português/Jet5

Há seis anos atrás, a população portuguesa "acordou" para o sofrimento do povo timorense, depois de décadas de esquecimento.

Para nos acordar foi necessário que um jornalista estrangeiro captasse em vídeo o massacre num cemitério de Dfli. Foi chocante ver gente a ser abatida a sangue frio. Os calafrios piores, porém, foram provocados pelas orações que ouvíamos entre o barulho das metralhadores. Em Timor, rezava-se em português.

A semana passada, na data em que se relembrava o massacre de Sta. Cruz, estudantes timorenses envolvem-se em confrontos com a polícia. A Cruz Vermelha Internacional dá a notícia de dois mortos e dezenas de feridos. As autoridades policiais indonésias negam tudo. Como de costume.

O sentimento de impotência atinge-nos uma vez mais: o regime de Suharto voltou a matar, e vai continuar incólume. Como é que é possível? Porque é que ninguém faz nada? Quem culpar? As Nações Unidas? Os Estados Unidos? O Governo Português (e qual ou quais, das décadas de 70, 80 ou 90)? A Igreja?

A ocupação indonésia em Timor-Leste dura há já 22 anos e todas estas entidades, ao longo destas mais de duas décadas, tiveram posições diferentes face ao problema. Entretanto, timorenses continuaram e continuam a morrer, às centenas de milhar, enquanto nas altas esferas da diplomacia internacional, os jogadores apresentam as suas cartadas.

A atribuição do Prémio Nobel da Paz, o ano passado, a Ramos-Horta e a D. Ximenes Belo foi uma vitória, no plano internacional, para os que têm lutado contra a invasão de Timor-Leste pela Indonésia. Mas temos que nos questionar sobre o porquê do reconhecimento tão tardio de uma causa que devia ser simples: a defesa dos direitos humanos de um povo contra as atrocidades do regime de Suharto.

Porque é que as Nações Unidas não tomaram até hoje uma posição mais dura contra a Indonésia? Petróleo. Dinheiro. Influência. Países tão fortes como a Austrália ou os Estados Unidos são aliados de Suharto. Em 1985, dois meses antes da Amnistia Internacional divulgar um relatório no qual a Indonésia era acusada de torturas e outros abusos dos direitos humanos, Bob Hawke, primeiro-ministro australiano, reconhecia a soberania da Indonésia sobre Timor-Leste. Já este ano, a administração de Clinton era criticada por representantes democratas, por emprestar três bilhões de dólares à Indonésia, sem exigir do governo deste país que mostrasse maior respeito pelos direitos humanos.

Mas se no caso destes países, o factor de motivação parece ter sido a manutenção de trocas comerciais, já a Igreja teve outras razões para apoiar a causa indonésia. Recuemos no tempo: a 28 de Novembro de 1975, a Fretilin proclama unilateralmente a independência de Timor. Escassos dias depois, a 7 de Dezembro, a Indonésia invade o território (apesar de tropas indonésias já se encontrarem no país desde Setembro desse ano). Na altura, a Igreja apoiou o regime de Suharto. Durante os primeiros anos, são inclusivamente realizadas homilias de apoio aos invasores. Porquê? A Fretilin era então conotada com tendências marxistas.

Na opinião de Xanana Gusmão (em entrevista ao jornal "Público"), a Igreja "fez o exame de consciência, depois da vaga de massacres que sucederam à destruição das bases populares nas montanhas".

Poderemos esperar dos políticos o mesmo tipo de *volte-face*? Talvez. Quando o dinheiro deixar de pesar na balança. Ou quando a população de cada país insistir com os respectivos governos para que não apoiem o regime de Jacarta. E o(a) leitor(a), sabe qual é a posição do Canadá face à Indonésia? Porque não escrever ou telefonar ao representante na sua área, a nível federal, e perguntar-lhe? Temos que começar por algum lado e o número de portugueses a residirem no Canadá deveria ser suficiente para, pelo menos, obrigar à discussão de certos assuntos.

João Rolo: Jovem activista pela causa de Timor

A História de um timorense

Por Ana Bailão
Sol Português/Jet 5

Muitas das histórias que conhecemos começam com "Era uma vez...", desenvolvem-se com algumas peripécias e terminam com um final feliz. No entanto a história que hoje vos vou contar não corresponde a este grupo.

A história de Roberto Seixas Miranda Gerónimo, de 42 anos, é um exemplo das muitas que o povo Timorense tem para contar a todo o mundo. A história de um povo invadido, oprimido e massacrado, a história que ainda não teve o seu final feliz e que o "mundo desenvolvido" tenta esquecer e ignorar.

No dia 7 de Dezembro de 1975 Timor foi invadido pela Indonésia. Roberto assim como muitos dos seus patriotas fugiram para o mato para resistir aos invasores. O sentimento que reinava entre esta gente era de confiança e a certeza de que a situação não duraria mais do que uns meses. A realidade porém foi bem diferente e, passados 17 anos e para vergonha de toda a humanidade, Timor continua sob o domínio indonésio. Durante alguns anos a resistência timorense sobreviveu com muita força e com o apoio da população. Roberto foi, durante estes anos, colaborador do comissário político nacional da resistência. Nos fins de 1979, após vários ataques aéreos, a Indonésia invadiu o monte de "Matebien", o que resultou numa ruptura geral da Resistência. Os números de resistentes que se renderam foram elevados; muitos guerrilheiros, comandantes e população foram mortos e massacrados.

Devido ao insucesso das conversações entre a Indonésia e Timor para alcançar a paz em 1983, surgiram vários protestos o que resultou noutro grande massacre do povo timorense e detenções. Roberto foi uma das vitimas. Capturado na viagem de helicóptero para Elimar, foi preso e levado para Eli, onde aterrou em Tasitolo (Três Lagoas, lugar popular de massacres e onde o Papa João Paulo II fez a sua celebração em 1989). Com os olhos tapados e amarrado Roberto foi levado para os comandos indonésios (SGI), onde o interrogaram intensivamente. Roberto não colaborou com as forças indonésias, pois não lhes deu informação nenhuma. Consequentemente foi submetido a pesadas torturas durante três meses. As torturas foram várias, desde choques eléctricos em várias partes do corpo incluindo no pénis, à extracção de unhas, queimaduras de cigarros e muitas outras. Apesar de muito dolorosas as torturas não intimidaram Roberto e nunca deu nenhuma informação aos comandos indonésios.

No dia 6 de Abril de 1984 foi transferido para a prisão de Comar, onde não o torturaram mais. Em 18 de Novembro de 1984 foi condenado a 12 anos de prisão, sem direito de defesa. Em conjunto com 42 outros prisioneiros, Roberto foi transferido para a prisão central da Indonésia, em Jacarta. Só nesta altura é que a sua família e a Cruz Vermelha foram notificadas. No entanto só passados três anos, ou seja em 1987, é que Roberto teve direito a visitas familiares, mas apenas duas vezes por ano.

Embora a tortura física não estivesse presente, a tortura psicológica era muito forte. Os prisioneiros eram constantemente ameaçados e obrigados a afirmar perante a Cruz Vermelha que estavam a receber bom tratamento. Se o comportamento fosse considerado bom, depois de algum tempo o prisioneiro tinha direito a três meses de liberdade.

Roberto foi liberto no dia 9 de Setembro de 1992. Depois de quase dez anos na prisão, Roberto era novamente um homem livre. No entanto, não podemos considerar um ser humano verdadeiramente livre se este é constantemente perseguido e interrogado por identidades oficiais, como lhe acontecia. Todos estes factores nunca o impediram de continuar a lutar pela democracia e liberdade do seu povo. Depois de várias entrevistas concedidas a estações de rádio e de televisão estrangeiras, com a finalidade de informar o exterior dos acontecimentos em Timor, as identidades indonésias reconheceram a voz de Roberto e as ameaças e perseguições aumentaram. Nesta mesma altura Roberto foi convidado a participar numa reunião de ex-prisioneiros políticos em Washington e conseguiu sair de Timor com estatuto de estudante da Universidade de Kensington. Depois de algum tempo fora de Timor e de visitas a Portugal e Estados Unidos, regressou à sua pátria no dia 1 de Dezembro de 1991. Foi imediatamente capturado e ameaçado de morte devido às informações que tinha dado, não só para o exterior como a outros membros da resistência Timorense. Ao tomar conhecimento deste facto a Cruz Vermelha usou de todos os meios para Roberto ser exilado em Portugal.

No dia 23 de Maio de 1996, Roberto Miranda dava entrada em Portugal com o estatuto de refugiado. A sua família continua a viver em Timor e ainda hoje é frequentemente interrogada sobre as actividades que este pratica. Depois de um ano e meio fora de Timor a sua luta persiste. De acordo com o testemunho de Roberto, as feridas foram muito profundas e irão permanecer para toda a sua vida. Mas "não posso parar de fazer algo pela minha pátria!", acrescenta ainda.

Em conjunto com 52 outros ex-prisioneiros políticos, Roberto fundou uma associação com o objectivo de denunciar as violações dos direitos humanos. A data de fundação tem algo de muito especial pois é a data natalícia de Xanana Gusmão: 20 de Junho.

Ana Bailão

É interessante o facto de muitos países se considerarem defensores dos direitos humanos, entre eles o Canadá e Estados Unidos, no entanto continuarem a ignorar a situação e a vender armas à Indonésia, sabendo que estas vão ser usadas contra o povo timorense. É indiscutivelmente uma vergonha para todos nós, quase no século XXI, depararmo-nos com uma situação destas. Compete a todos nós ajudar este povo e obrigar os nossos governos a intervir na causa. Se os Estados Unidos tomam medidas em relação à Bósnia e Iraque então porque não fazem algo por Timor? A isto chama-se hipocrisia! Porque a Indonésia é um mercado lucrativo, não convém a estes países intervir nesta situação.

O que o povo timorense pede é o direito de escolha. Este povo tem o direito de decidir, por meios democráticos, se querem a sua independência ou ficar como parte da Indonésia.

Apelamos para que a nossa juventude se envolva nesta causa, assim como toda a restante comunidade. Se queres mais informação sobre como te envolveres, ou sobre este assunto, podes contactar a equipa JET 5. Lembra-te que a história do Roberto é uma das muitas que existe. Muitos jovens da nossa idade, crianças e idosos são massacrados por lutarem pela democracia. Ajuda este povo, pois contribuirás para um mundo melhor e com mais justiça.

JET 5

SMOKE AND SLAUGHTER

INDONESIA, APEC, EAST TIMOR AND UNSUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

Presented By: Dr. George Aditjondro
Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Newcastle University, New South Wales, Australia

Date: Friday November 14th , 1997

Time: 9:30 am - 11:30 am

Place: Wilfrid Laurier University
Frank Peters Building
Room P1027

Sponsored by: Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Development and International Studies Program, Dean of Arts and Science, and Laurier Lecture Committee

The Record (K-W) WEDNESDAY, November 12, 1997 B3

WATERLOO

Dissident to talk on East Timor

A talk on East Timor and unsustainable development in Southeast Asia will take place at Wilfrid Laurier University on Friday.

The speaker will be George Aditjondro, an Indonesian dissident and environmental and human rights activist, who is in Canada along with 13 Timorese refugees, on a tour sponsored by the East Timor Alert Network.

Aditjondro, who has been living in Australia, is in exile from Indonesia because of his outspoken stance on East Timor and his testimony in favor of East Timorese self-determination.

The talk will take place from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in room P1025/27 of the Peters Building on the Laurier campus.

Upholding international law and order

PETER EGLIN

SPECIAL TO CORD FEATURES

On November 24, one of the century's great mass murderers - General Suharto, President of Indonesia - arrives in Vancouver for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.

The case against Suharto is overwhelming and well-documented. He is guilty of two genocides. In their History and Sociology of Genocide, Chalk and Jonassohn include the 1965-66 slaughter that killed 'many more than one million' (Amnesty International) of Indonesia's own people as Suharto began his reign.

The second genocide began on December 7, 1975 when Indonesian forces invaded the decolonizing Portuguese-administered territory of East Timor. Within four years 200,000 Timorese were dead, nearly one third of the population. The proportion is comparable to that of Jews killed by the Nazis, and is greater than that of Cambodians whose deaths were caused by Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge.

Despite ten U.N. resolutions condemning the atrocities in East Timor no attempt has yet been made to bring Suharto to justice. The oppression continues as you read this.

It persists because the US wished and worked for things to turn out as they did.“The Department of State desired that the U.N. prove utterly ineffective in whatever measures it undertook. This task was given to me, and I carried it forward with no inconsiderable success.' This is sociologist Daniel Patrick Moynihan, then United States Ambassador to the U.N., in his 1978 autobiography, A Dangerous Place.

US policy since 1945 has viewed Indonesia as a huge source of raw materials and markets for Western business, to be managed by a (corrupt) local elite and kept out of the hands of the Indonesian people themselves.

In this sordid history Canada has played its usual junior partner role, supporting US policy and grabbing what spoils it can. Responding to the 1965-66 slaughter, The Globe and Mail found it 'encouraging and remarkable that responsible leaders have emerged in Indonesia' as Indonesia became 'a paradise for investors.'

The story of Canadian complicity in the East Timor genocide is told in Sharon Scharfe's Complicity: Human Rights and Canadian Foreign Policy: The Case of East Timor (Black Rose, 1996) and Elaine Briere's riveting documentary Bitter Paradise: the Sell-Out of East Timor (see A-V). It details especially the complicity of Canadian business and academia.

With a few exceptions academics have been silent, not least because many universities, notably Guelph and Simon Fraser, have had or still have development projects involving Indonesia. What should WLU students, faculty and administration do about this? We should seek his arrest and have him charged with war crimes, crimes against peace and against humanity, and genocide.

We should do this (a) because there is an overwhelming case against him, (b) to clean the blood off our own hands, and (c) because we can. Blood gets on our hands if, knowing about such a genocide, and being in a position to do something about it, we do nothing.

HIGHLAND PORTRAIT STUDIO
Grad Photos Special
One 8x10 Two 5x7 Six 2x3
For Only $49.99
Pose of your choice.
744 - 5553

Inside

News 3
International 7
Opinion 8
StudentLife 10
Feature 14
Sports. 16
Entertainment . . . 19
Arts 22
Classifieds 23

The Cord (WLU), October 22, 1997, front page.

The Cord (Wilfrid Laurier University)

East Timor and Canada

The complicity of genocide

JENNIFER CLARKE
CORD FEATURES

For nearly 400 years, East Timor was a colony of Portugal. On November 28, 1975, East Timor declared its independence. Ten days later on December 7, Indonesia invaded the small country.

Forested areas were bombed by Indonesian troops in an attempt to strip ground cover and chemical sprays were used to destroy crops and livestock, creating mass starvation of the Timorese village population.

Since the invasion, Amnesty International and other NGO's conservatively estimate that 200,000 people or more than one-third of the East Timorese population have been brutally murdered, starved to death or have died as a result of the genocide inflicted by Indonesia.

A few days after the 1975 invasion, the United Nations General Assembly strongly opposed the invasion and told Indonesia to withdraw its military presence in East Timor "without delay."

However on July 17, 1976, President Suharto signed a bill formally integrating East Timor into Indonesia, with nearly 100,000 reported Timorese deaths in the region since the invasion. On November 19, 1976, the U.N.

General Assembly rejected Indonesia's integration and on May 16, 1982, the Pope confirmed that the Vatican would not accept East Timor as part of the Indonesian Republic.

Death, torture, rape, and disappearances of the Timorese people by Indonesian troops continue to this day.

Freedom of expression and the right of assembly continue to be banned in East Timor and those who speak with foreigners are subject to imprisonment and interrogation by authorities.

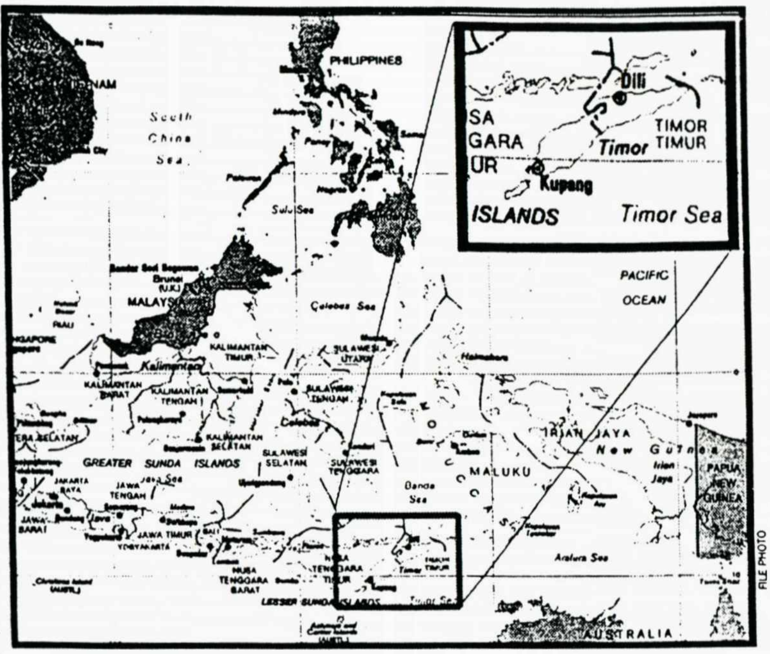
The Indonesian military frequently rapes and sexually assaults women in East Timor.

Timorese women are extremely hesitant to report rape since their culture forbids premarital sex and they are often ostracized by their own community.

Not only are Timorese women routinely raped, they are subjected to a "coercive birth control program" receiving Depo-Provera injections or permanent sterilization against their will at hospitals while there for minor surgeries or to give birth.

This genocide and its atrocities are proportionally comparable to those committed by the Nazis against the Jewish population. What would you have thought if Canada had sympathized with Hitler and invested billions of dollars to develop Nazi-occupied territory?

> **What would you have thought if Canada had sympathized with Hitler and invested billions of dollars to develop Nazi occupied territory?**



FILE PHOTO

What about Canada praising Hitler's population control methods and cheap labour?

Could you have tolerated the idea that Canada was exporting millions of dollars of military arms to Hitler? Well, now you have the opportunity to ask yourself each of these questions today.

Indonesia is Canada's largest export market in Southeast Asia. Canadian investments have steadily increased since the Suharto regime came to power in 1965.

After Chretien's first "Team Canada" trade mission to Indonesia in November 1994, Canadian investments stood at $3 billion. By his 1996 trade promotion, trade to Indonesia had doubled to $6 billion and continued to grow.

The Department of Foreign Affairs released a special edition of its monthly "CanadExport" on Indonesia.

The 12-page guide lavishes praise on President Suharto and his country's booming economy with only one reference to human rights violations committed by Indonesia: "While Canada's concerns about Indonesia's human rights record - especially in East Timor - remain, Canada has responded to recent positive developments in Indonesia by resuming the planning for new development projects."

Financial assistance for Canadian companies wanting to start up operations in the low-wage "investor's paradise" of Indonesia, where workers have to fight to earn a minimum wage of $2 a day - taking jobs out of Canada, is provided by a number of government agencies and programs.

The Canadian government also approved and continues to approve military exports, valued at over $362 million in 1995 for Canadian companies wanting to trade with Indonesia, while claiming that its military controls are the most restrictive of all Western countries.

Canada says that it will only allow exports of military equipment which won't be used against civilians, but who does the "investor's paradise" of Indonesia have to fear as an enemy threat?

Who is the Indonesian military using their weapons against? Too bad the 200,000 murdered Timorese werenit able to give us their opinion or insight.

Officials claim that records for military exports to Indonesia before 1988 have been destroyed.

But even if these records were available they would not be an accurate reflection of Canada's military sales. Canadian military parts are sold to the United States and become part of the total U.S. military production with at least 10% going to the Third World each year.

The plight of the East Timorese had been largely ignored by the rest of the world and Canada as the international "Peace-Keeper" has overtly failed them.

These atrocities committed by the Nazis were condemned by Canadians while today, Indonesia is praised and rewarded with development projects by our Prime Minister and other members of government.

Last year the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Jose Ramos-Horta, an East Timor activist, and Bishop Carlos Belo, the Catholic Bishop of East Timor.

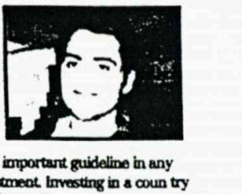
> **"Canada has expressed, through this new government, our desire to vigorously pursue a series of [trade] initiatives in a number of countries irrespective of their human rights records."**
> **May 1995, Andre Ouellet - Canadian Liberal Foreign Minister**

VocalCord

What role should human rights play with respect to international trade and foreign investment?

At times I fear that the world powers give little priorities to such matters.
Steve Metzger, 3rd. yr. History/ Fine Arts

My concern is with the working conditions and how people are being paid.
Jennifer Gottfred: 3rd yr. Honours Arts



Today as a global village there is no reason why heinous acts should be placed upon society.
Robert Allan: 3rd yr. Basket-weaving

Human rights should be the most important guideline in any decision about international investment. Investing in a coun try that perpetrates humanrights violations is supporting those violations.
erin keating: 4th yr. english/ philosophy

Suharto comes to Vancouver

Continued from page 1

The case is particularly acute for the university community because the APEC conference is being held on a univeristy campus, UBC's, in part in the Musuem of Anthropology.

General Suharto is a killer of the Maubere peoples of East Timor studied by anthropologists. He is a killer of students, the principal part of the 273 Dili Massacre victims of November 12, 1991.

Jiang Zemin, President of China, and killer of students (the Tiananmen Square Massacre) and journalists, will also be at APEC. When the University of Victoria Senate voted 26-9 to give him an honorary degree, and present it at the summit, UVic students and the Vancouver Sun blasted the decision. Amazingly, UVic president, David Strong, defended it arguing that it would support human rights in China. Thanks without doubt to the protesting, Jiang has refused the degree.

One hopes that faculty opposition to the University of Toronto's announced intention to give an honorary degree to former US President, George Bush, butcher of Panama and elsewhere, will produce the same result.

When given the opportunity to take action against President Suharto by a motion in Senate at Wilfrid Laurier University on September 25, enjoining President Rosehart to write other university presidents to jointly urge the Attorney-General to seek Suharto's arrest, Laurier's Senate voted it down (though eleven supported it).

It was suggested instead that I write an op-ed and submit it to The Globe and Mail. At the October 16 Senate meeting, Dr Rosehart reported that other university presidents at a AUCC meeting where he raised the matter regarded heads of state as above the law. UBC was not involved, they said, since its then president, David Strangway, had merely 'rented' its campus to APEC. I write here hoping Laurier students will emulate their UVic cohorts.

We should take action because we can. Even when committed elsewhere, war crimes are prosecutable in Canada under statutes originally incorporated in our criminal code to try ex-Nazis here. When Pol Pot surfaced recently in Cambodia it was proposed that he be brought to Canada to be tried for crimes against Cambodians from 1975 to 1978. However, he escaped external capture.

Suharto, however, is here by invitation of the Federal Government, and is available for arrest. The East Timor Alert Network (ETAN) intends to try and arrest him, should the Attorney-General and RCMP fail to do so. We can help by writing Anne McLellan, Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, Ottawa, urging her to direct the RCMP to apply the criminal law to the General, and by encouraging students and faculty at UBC to support ETAN's action.

FILE PHOTO

Suharto will be promoting trade to Indonesia at the UBC campus

Ten Timorese refugees from Portugal and Australia are coming to Canada as Team Timor for the lead-up to APEC. In November 1994 at APEC in Jakarta, Prime Minister Chretien, for Team Canada, signed $1 billion in investment deals and $30 million in new aid projects with General Suharto as Timorese students risked their lives demonstrating in Dili and occupying the US embassy in Jakarta.

Team Timor will be in Ottawa on November 12, when ETAN will hold a 'Preliminary Hearing' into the charges against Suharto. They will each participate in a different Canadian city in a National Day of Protest on the 15th, and a National Day of Prayer on the 16th.

On the 17th ETAN will conduct a War Crimes Tribunal on the UBC campus into Suharto's crimes. They will receive another airing at the Human Rights Issues Forum of the People's Summit on the 21st, followed by the 'NO TO APEC' conference starting on the 22nd. Suharto will be at APEC on the 24th-25th.

In **The Future of Immortality** Robert Jay Lifton writes that the 'majority of teachers in the universities in Nazi Germany did not actively take part in mass murder, but they accommodated themselves and went along, or sat back and did nothing to prevent it.' Canadian university administrations, and to some degree their faculties, continue either to align themselves with genocidal and oppressive regimes, or sit back and do nothing.

I will write that op-ed and submit it to The Globe and Mail. How many of you would like to sign it, and what else will you and I do between now and November 24?

For more information contact:
East Timor Alert Network
(ETAN)
P.O. Box 562, Station P
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 2T1
Tel: (416) 531-5850
Fax: (416) 588-5556
e-mail: etanor@web.net

"The Independence of every country is the right of every nation, with no exception for the people of (East) Timor"
June 1974, Adam Malik - Indonesia's Foreign Affairs Minister

PHOTO: ELAINE BRIERE

The East Timorese continue to wait for self-determination

"50,000 people or perhaps 80,000 might have been killed during the war in East Timor...It was war...Then what is the big fuss?"
April 1977, Adam Malik - Indonesia's Foreign Affairs Minister

LettersTo The**Editor**

Cord, Nov. 12, 1997, p. 7.

Remember Timor

Dear Editor,

WW2 claimed the lives of some forty thousand Canadians 'who had the courage and will to uphold freedom and fight evil' (Rev. Peter Mikelic, The Record, Nov 11, A9). In keeping with the theme of Remembrance Day (the Cord, Nov 6) may we not forget the sixty thousand Timorese (of a population of perhaps 500,000) killed by Japanese soldiers in the same war. They were slaughtered by the Japanese invaders partly out of revenge for having defended several hundred Australian commandos who had first invaded Timor. The Australians were able to get out.

In 1975 Indonesia invaded the decolonizing Portuguese territory of East Timor, then annexed and occupied it, causing the death of some 200,000 Timorese, almost a third of the 1975 population. Australia rewarded Timor for its wartime help by being the only country in the world to officially recognise the Indonesian annexation, by signing a treaty with Indonesia to rob the Timorese of their offshore oil, and by selling Indonesia advanced assault rifles to maintain the military oppression in East Timor.

Today (Nov 12) marks the fifth anniversary of the Dili Massacre when Indonesian soldiers shot dead 273 Timorese, mostly students, in a funeral procession-cum-demonstration at the Santa Cruz cemetery in the capital city of East Timor. They murdered surviving witnesses the following day for a total of about 400 dead. From 1975, Canada first abstained on, then opposed, ten UN resolutions calling on Indonesia to withdraw from East Timor, steadily increased its trade with Indonesia so that it is now Canada's largest export market in Southeast Asia, sold Indonesia arms through the eighties, and maintains an 'aid' program of about $30-40 million annually mostly funnelled through development projects established at Canadian universities. In 1994, on a Team Canada trade mission, the Prime Minister co-signed $1 billion in investment deals with the mass-murdering General Suharto in Jakarta.

Later this month twenty academics from rural Indonesian universities will be visiting WLU (and U of Guelph and U of Waterloo).

The question Remembrance Day poses for me is how best to honour the memory of the 40,000 Canadians and 60,000 Timorese who died to 'uphold freedom and fight evil.'

Peter Eglin, Dept. of Soc. & Anth.

The Cord published this by mistake! They actually published it ~~the~~ exactly a year ago. When I warned them I was preparing a letter for this year's anniversary, they went to their 'Eglin' email file, pulled this letter up and thought it was the one I had sent this year! They published the right one in the following issue (Nov. 19). See attached:..

(Actually, this one does the job, except for the out-of-date reference here.) →

The slaughter in East Timor

PHOTO: JEN CLARKE

Dr. George Aditjondro was at Laurier last Friday to lecture on the Suharto regime's 1975 East Timor invasion.

JENNIFER CLARKE AND CHRISTINE GERGICH
CORD NEWS

Dr. George Aditjondro left Indonesia in January 1995 after a total of twenty hours of police interrogation, fearing a six year imprisonment for the charge of insulting the President.

Aditjondro spoke at Laurier on Friday, November 14. His criticism and presentation focused on the Suharto regime's 1975 East Timor invasion, their continued occupation, and their subsequent human rights violations.

The presentation began dramatically as Aditjondro asked the audience for a moment of silence to honour five students who were seriously wounded and possibly killed by the military during a protest in Indonesia earlier that morning.

His talk titled "Indonesia, APEC, East Timor and Unsustainable Development in South-East Asia" also discussed how the U.S. and Canadian governments have been supplying arms and military planes to Indonesia.

"North American foreign investment and their companies are being protected by the Indonesian military," Aditjondro stated.

"The same weapons used against the East Timorese and their resistance to the corrupt Suharto regime," said Aditjondro, "are used against students, workers, and farmers. These weapons are surplus Vietnam weaponry."

In 1996, Canadian military exports sales totaled $163,842,600. Aditjondro went on to explain how military arms are not the only weapons of war used by Indonesia.

The Indonesian government, with aid from the World Bank, is currently using "family planning" clinics, or what Aditjondro calls "forced female fertility control," to keep the depleted East Timorese population from growing.

Aditjondro reported numerous incidents in many East Timorese schools where the men are told by the military to leave the room and the women are subsequently injected with Norplant and Deprovera .

"Informed consent is simply not an option for many women," he said.

"This is a young people's war and they are willing to fight until there are none of them left," said Aditjondro about the youth of East Timor. "There is no freedom of expression, assembly or reproductive rights in Indonesia."

"Oppression overseas covers up oppression in our own backyard." Aditjondro encouraged Laurier students to act and "join action to change the course of history."

Aditjondro served for 6 years as Vice President of the Indonesian Environmental Forum. He received the national environment award from President Suharto in 1987, but returned it 10 years later in protest of human rights violations and environmental destruction.

The Cord (WLU), Nov. 19, 1997, p. 2.

	[illegible]
	Angela Orticello
	Jen Roberts
	Janette Roy
	Sarah Schiefer
Circulation Manager	**Lionella Gilbert**
Classified Coordinator	**Kim Henderson**
Copy Editors	**Irem Ali**
	Megan Atkinson
	Chadwick Dietrich
	Noelle Fisher
Public Relations Coordinator	**Christine McArthur**

Student Publications Staff

Photo Manager	**Stephen Williams**
Photo Technicians	**Luke Martyn**
	Joanne Spadafora
	Karen Stegenga
Systems Administrator	**Shayne Lidkea**
Advertising Manager	**Lars Pastrik**
Ad Sales Representatives	**Vacant**
Ad Production Manager	**Vacant**
Ad Production Assistants	**Richard Basas**
	Allison Cook

Administration

President	**Kevin MacDonald**
VP: Finance	**Mark Duke**
Board of Directors	**Christine Gergich**
Tom Hrubes	**Ryan Locke**
Michelle MacDonald	**Steve Metzger**
	David Trueman

The Cord will not print anything that is racist, sexist, or homophobic in nature, as deemed by the staff as a voting body. The Cord will not print anything in violation of its Code of Ethics, outlined in The Cord Constitution. Cord subscription rates are $20.00 per term for addresses within Canada. The Cord is printed by CanWeb Printing. All commentary is strictly the opinion of the writer and does not necessarily reflect that of the Cord staff, the editorial board, or WLU Publications.

Contributors

"Production Gap God" Paul McLean, Tina Tam, RW Hickey, Sarah Parker, James Muir, Eric Henry, Jeff Schouela, Thom Ryan, Joshua Marshall, disco keggers, Karen Ostrander, Chris Pearce, Al MacNevin, Ben Umpleby, Richelle Read, Danielle Fielder, Mohamed Bhamani, Chris Philips, Brad Wilson, Marion Hensel, Beth Mullen, Navdeep Khattra, Natalie Vanderburg, Jeffrey Fila, Tanya Otterbein, Elizabeth Main, Matthew Brodie, Alexis Arrowsmith, Gemma Warner, The WLU Cafeteria Staff, Joseph Murphy, Mike Adorjan, Brad Fetter, Marsha King, Michael Boyce, Ellen Justynski. K. P.S. Never ever write an editorial when you're tired.

Letters To The Editor

Suharto-napping is illegal

Dear Editor,

I am writing to complement the Cord on its commitment this year to presenting readers with critical pieces dealing with real global concerns, and not just current events at Laurier.

Secondly, I would like to comment on Jennifer Clarke's article "East Timor and Canada The Complicity of Genocide." The attempt to raise awareness of issues such as the Indonesian occupation of East Timor is commendable, but I am concerned with one point raised in the article itself, Ms. Clarke announces that the East Timor Alert Network (ETAN) intends to arrest President Suharto, an invitee of the Federal Government, in British Columbia if the RCMP and Attorney General fail to act.

I find this quite disturbing for several reasons. When a non governmental organization or interest group "arrests" someone without the approval of the authorities, it is called kidnapping and is highly illegal. Furthermore, even if a move were initiated by the RCMP on Canadian soil, charges would never hold due to a procedural loophole known as entrapment. One should also consider the consequences of violating the principles of diplomatic immunity and national sovereignty if Suharto were apprehended. How would Canada react of Prime Minister Chretien were arrested and held by a foreign government for violating one of its laws? Perhaps we should also consider the implications for Canada's reputation and international status as a result of complicity in the deposition of another country's leader.

Ms. Clarke mentions the "Butcher of Panama," George Bush. Bush is certainly not the first, nor likely the last American leader to use questionable methods in pursuit of U.S. interests. The United States is often criticized for the means it has employed in order to manipulate the policies of other nation states. It has overthrown governments, assisted in political assassinations, invaded, enslaved, brutalized and conquered under the same democratic principles and form of government operating in the country today. Though this is true, the United States remains Canada's largest trading partner and, some argue, the greatest influence on its foreign policy. East Timor and Indonesia are certainly worthy of our concern, but let's not be hypocritical. There are greater evils. Next time you have an all American Coca Cola, try and remember the words of its president in 1992 - "When I think of Indonesia - A country on the equator with 180 million people, a median age of 18, and a Muslim ban on alcohol - I feel like I know what heaven looks like." Heaven isn't so far away.

Steven Lofkrantz

Unnecessary 'Roque' throwing

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter in my own defence of what was obviously a vicious and personal attack on my character. Ms. Erin responded to my letter calling it "unwarranted and frankly petty." I'm sure that if Ms. Erin had actually read my letter she would have realized that my original letter was based entirely on fact and was not petty at all... this letter is petty.

I would like to know which of my facts was misguided as they have been charged. I would also like to know when the big Turret sign was moved into the Turret and Wilf's since according to Ms. Erin's letter these were the only locations on campus hit by the promotion. As far as I knew the big Turret sign was situated in the Quad for EVERYONE to see, even those who don't enjoy the services provided by the Turret or Wilf's.

It is irrelevant that Mr. Ryan liked the show. My letter was about his attack on the promotion. Maybe I am over sensitive to criticism of an organization to which I don't even belong, however, all the girls tell me that sensitivity in a male is a good thing.

Another thing I am curious about is how my skills at my job (bartending) have anything to do with the situation at hand. If Ms. Erin is concerned with my boredom, I invite her to take a look at my day planner - one of a person who supports WLU activities, not belittles them.

This letter will hopefully be the final chapter of this saga, unless someone says something else mean about me. If it seems by my tone and words that I am making fun of this situation, it's because I am.

Matt Roque

The Electric Cord: www.wlu.ca/~wwwcord.ca

LettersToTheE

Put your money on our seats

Dear Editor,

As an employee of The Centre in the Square, I enjoy the frequent reviews the Cord does on the performances at The Centre. My praise includes the review of Penn and Teller written by Stephen J. Williams and Ben Harris.

While the review was very well written, there was one point that was reported incorrectly. The reporters were complaining of the condition of The Centre's seats. They urged future patrons to, "please donate to the seat fund by purchasing a program." The error is that patrons do no have to purchase a programme by donating to the seat fund. Programmes are free of charge and donations are voluntary.

Although the donations are voluntary, I would like to encourage people to donate to the seat fund as the cost of replacing the 17 year old seats is $400,000. The fund recently reached the half-way mark with programme donations contributing $20,000. With the recent political trend of cutting back money for the arts, The Centre has to look for other sources of revenue to continue operating one of Canada's premier theatres. So the next time you attend The Centre in the Square, please find it in your heart to make a little contribution to this massive effort.

Peter Greenwood

Cord, Nov 19, 1997, p.6.

Terrorism or humanity?

Dear Editor,

Just a quick response to Steven Lofkrantz's comment (Cord , Oct 29) on the East Timor pieces, one by Jenn Clarke, one by me, in the Cord (Oct 22). The point Lofkrantz attributes to Jenn Clarke, about ETAN intending to arrest Suharto if the RCMP do not, was actually in my article.

Firstly, ETAN would be attempting a citizen's arrest, quite within the scope of Canadian criminal law, and not to be confused with kidnapping as Lofkrantz would have it.

Secondly, a warrant could be issued for Suharto's arrest by the RCMP, so I am not sure how entrapment would arise as a legal obstacle.

Thirdly, Lofkrantz's raises the legitimate question of `extra territoriality,' and asks how Canadians would react if Prime Minister Chretien were arrested by a foreign government for violating one of its laws. (a) It's not clear why heads of state should be regarded as above the law. (b) The law in question is, in fact, international law on war crimes and crimes against humanity which Canada has incorporated into its criminal code. Presumably international law should apply internationally. National sovereignty is not a defence against a charge of committing war crimes, surely? (c) Canada could do its international reputation a power of good by bringing a major mass murderer to justice.

Fourthly, in reference to the butcher of Panama, Lofkrantz's graphic description of US international terrorism, and Canada's less than distant relationship to it, eloquently supports the very point we were making. To counsel overlooking this sordid history in the interests of trade is to lose your humanity - vide the President of Coca Cola.

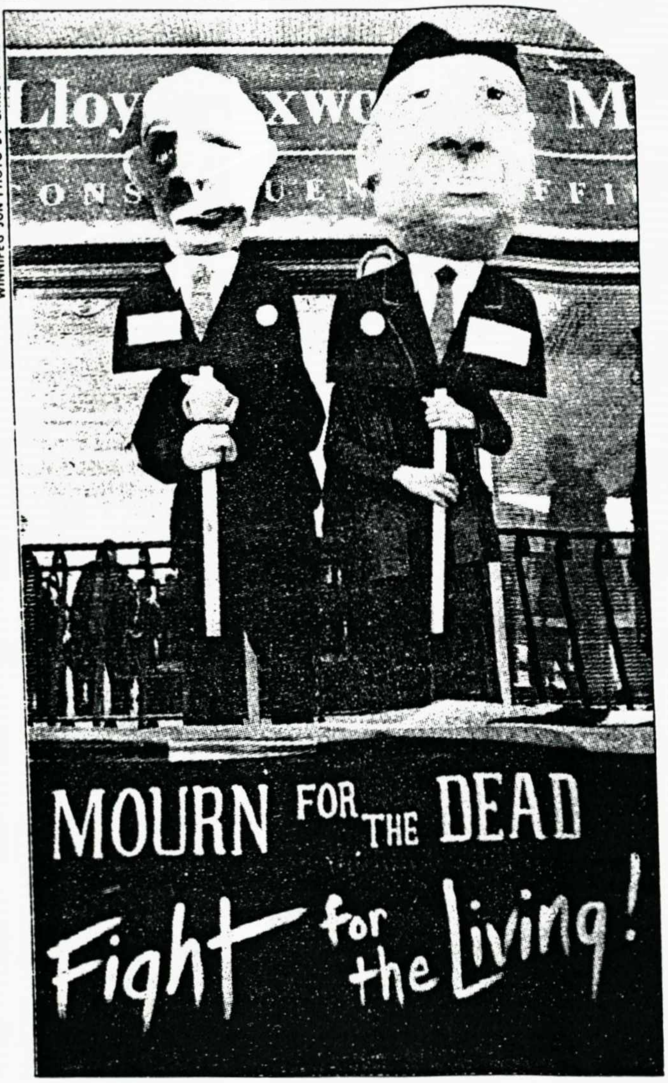
The question remains. Are you a supporter of terrorism, or a human being?

One courageous human being [visited] Wilfrid Laurier on Friday November 14. His name is George Aditjondro. For criticizing his government's policy and practice in East Timor he was forced from his position as Professor of Development Studies at Satya Wacana Christian University in Indonesia and now lives in exile in Australia.

Peter Eglin

'Link rights, trade'

ANETTE MUELLER
For The Sun



WINNIPEG SUN PHOTO BY CHRIS PROCAYLO

■ Protesters hold effigies of Chretien (left) and Suharto.

About 50 angry protesters dumped a Jean Chretien dummy on Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy's doorstep, along with a message they want taken to a trade conference in Vancouver.

The protesters are angry at Canada's refusal to link human rights with trade when it meets with Indonesia's president tomorrow at the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation conference.

"... Canada has a very hypocritical stand on human-rights issues," said protest organizer Viola Muldrew. "The government imposed a trade embargo on Nigeria, but continues to strengthen economic relations with China and Indonesia," she said, adding that Indonesia is Canada's largest export market in Southeast Asia.

Yesterday's march commemorated Indonesia's invasion of East Timor 22 years ago and the 1991 massacre of 273 unarmed people. Similar events organized by the East Timor Alert Network (ETAN) were held across the country to raise public awareness of human rights violations in Southeast Asia.

Protest participants also carried an effigy of Indonesia's president. Hagi Muhummad Suharto is a war criminal and should be behind bars, not talking trade with Canada, said Jose Antonio Amorim Dias, a political refugee from East Timor.

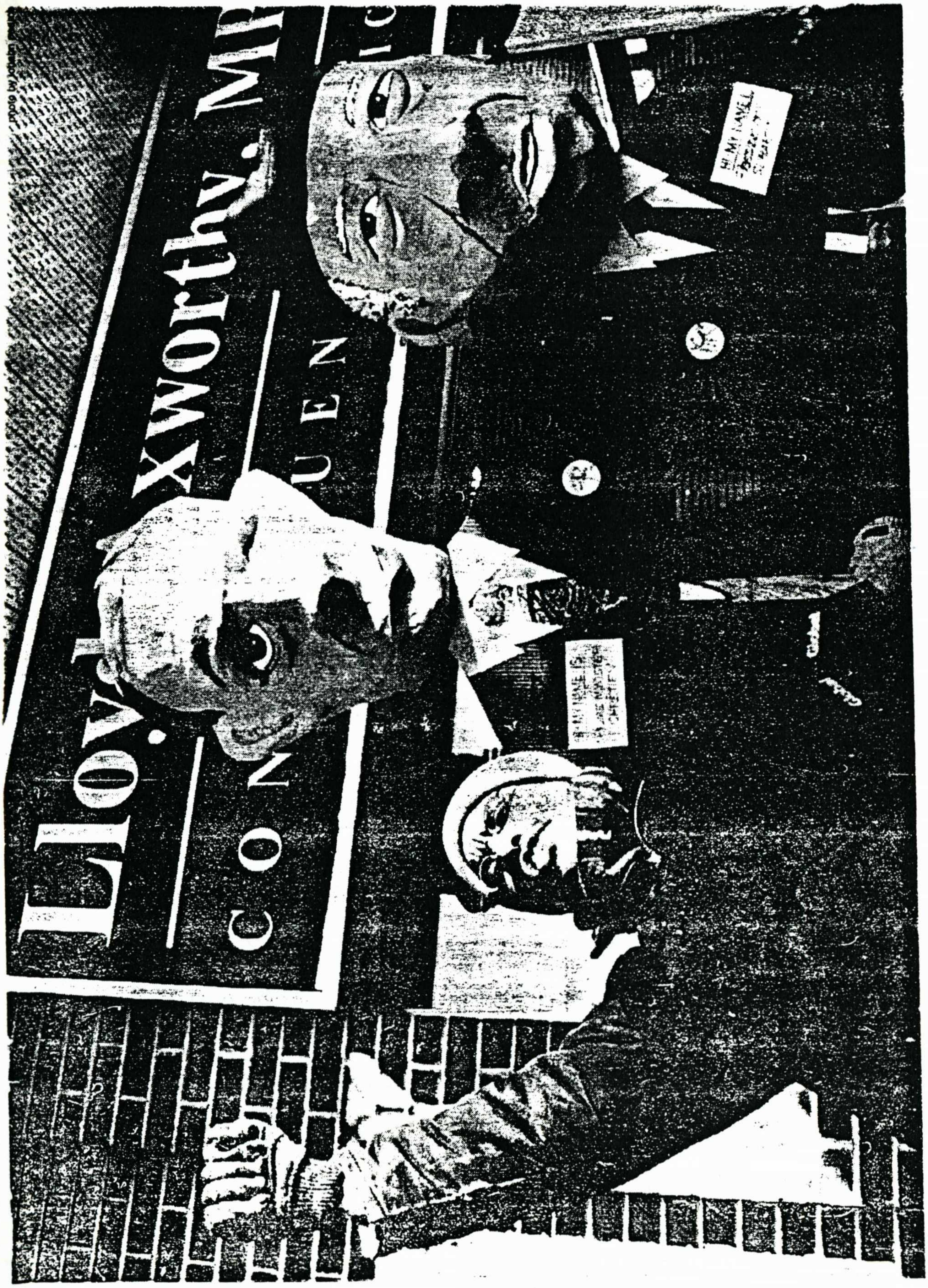
Although Suharto calls East Timor the 27th province of Indonesia, the United Nations has never recognized the takeover.

"One day my people will be free just like the people in South Africa who suffered under apartheid," Dias said. "We should voice their voices in the world."

Louis Chernetz, an ETAN committee member, urged Winnipeggers to press Axworthy to support a UN resolution calling for the withdrawal of Indonesian troops from East Timor under UN mediators.

"It's so appalling that human rights issues aren't on the agenda during the APEC conference," said ETAN supporter Betty Watkins.

About 18 countries bordering on the Pacific Ocean will participate in the APEC conference from Nov. 17- 24 in Vancouver.


Llo xworthy, M
CON UEN
photo by

www.umanitoba.ca/manitoban

the Manitoban

Vol. 85, No. 10 – Wednesday, November 19, 1997

The University of Manitoba Students' Newspaper *the***Manitoban** *November 19, 1997*

Canada to welcome mass murderer

Protestors attack Axworthy and Liberals for hypocracy at APEC summit

Loriann Pearce &
Jeremy Nelson
Toban Staff

Activists hold mock funeral procession to mourn massacred East Timorese

photo by loriann pearce

Next week, Canada's Liberal government will welcome to Canada a man responsible for the slaughter of more than a quarter of a million civilians, and members of a local activist group couldn't be angrier.

About 50 enraged protestors, many of them members of the East Timor Alert Network (ETAN), descended on Lloyd Axworthy's office last week to decry the Minister of Foreign Affairs' decision to allow into Canada President Suharto of Indonesia, who they say is responsible for one of the worst genocides since the Holocaust.

Carrying a black coffin emblazoned with the words, "mourn for the dead, fight for the living," the protestors called upon the Liberal government to arrest Suharto for crimes against humanity when he arrives in Vancouver on November 25 for the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) leaders summit.

The protesters also sought to inform Canadians about the role Canada has played in supporting Suharto's regime ever since the Indonesian dictator broke international law in 1975 and invaded the island nation of East Timor, in the process killing more than one third of its population.

"Do we want someone like this coming to our country?" asked ETAN member Kirk King. "Do we want the people of East Timor to be raped, tortured, beaten and oppressed so that we can have a better trade relationship with a facist regime?"

"No," the crowd screamed back. "No!"

For almost 13 years, ETAN Canada has been trying to raise awareness of the ruthless oppression in Indonesia and neighbouring East Timor, in the hope that Canadian politicians will enact strict trade sanctions against the Suharto regime in order to force the Indonesian government to correct its human rights violations.

When Lloyd Axworthy became the Minister of Foriegn Affairs and International Trade, ETAN thought it might have found an aliv for it cause on Parliament Hill.

"Lloyd Axworthy said publically that he would stop Indonesia, that he would be a different kind of foreign minister, but he hasn't followed through with those promises," said protest organizer Fiona Muldrew.

"He's actually signed military export permits," she added, alluding to the $32 million in military goods and training recently offered by Canada to Indonesia.

The protest began at the Legislature, from where protestors led by José Antonio Amorim Dias, an East Timorese refugee, marched in a sombre procession to Axworthy's constituency office.

Later Dias addressed the crowd:

"We should double our efforts to pressure governments of the world to stop trading with the Indonesian government until the people of East Timor are free," said Dias, who became an activist after witnessing his father being beaten by Indonesian soldiers for refusing a job in the government administration.

"When they arrested him, they beat him in front of us and the soldiers told us that if we listened to our father we would suffer the same fate," he said.

"I thought of my father — a forthright, honest, dedicated, religious man and yet they did that to him. And there were so many like him: innocent East Timorese, victims of the brutal Indonesian occupation."

Dias was just one of 14 refugees that spoke in major cities across Canada in a national day of protest. Early in the week, members of ETAN also staged a mock war-crimes tribunal on Parliament Hill.

"There are articles in the War Crimes Act that could be used to legally indite Suharto as a criminal," said Dias. "We do have the right [in Canada] to try war criminals outside of their country."

NDP Member of Parliament Svend Robinson asked Axworthy if he would do just that in the House of Commons several weeks ago.

Said Robinson: "Will the Minister explain why Indonesian President Suharto, guilty of genocidal policies in East Timor and massive human-rights violations in Indonesia, is not being barred under the Immigration Act or charged with war crimes if he sets foot on Canadian soil?"

Axworthy responded saying that. "President Suharto is a guest of Canada at the APEC summit and I expect he will be given the proper courtesty that any guest of Canada is afforded."

Members of ETAN say these responses are typical of Axworthy, who has repeatedly declined to meet with members of ETAN and who voided his membership in Parliamentarians for East Timor soon after becoming Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Despite Axworthy's refusals, activists remain determined to put human rights on the agendas of both the Liberal government and the APEC summit.

"People need to know that this is happening in East Timor," said protestor Kathy Mallet, "and many people right now don't know. Our government is hiding a lot of things."

Robinson shares Mallet's disgust.

"I think it's shameful and embarrassing that Canada is rolling out the red carpet for a war criminal."

([illegible])

The Leader-Post Regina Monday, November 17, 1997

PATRICK PETTIT/The Leader-Post

Demonstrators stand behind symbolic coffin

Timor group brings cause to Regina

By VICKI HALL
of The Leader-Post

Joao Antonio Dias trembled and shook as he related the horrors of his homeland to a group of Reginans standing near the Victoria Park cenotaph.

"Why don't the Canadians do something?" the 29-year-old man said, fighting back the tears. "They use daggers, knives — they beat people with the butts of rifles.

"What we want is freedom for our country. We want the violence to stop."

Dias is a member of Team Timor, a group of 13 exiled East Timorese and two exiled Indonesian activists who are asking the government to put the Indonesian leader Suharto on trial for war crimes.

President Suharto is scheduled to be in Vancouver next week at an Asian Pacific Economic Conference meeting. Dias would like Canada to arrest the leader so no more harm will be done to the people of East Timor.

He has the support of members of the Regina East Timor Alert Network (RETAN), who organized the vigil in memory of thousands of East Timor people who have died fighting for their freedom.

"I feel I have a moral obligation to do something about the genocide that's occurring," said Sarah McQuarrie, of RETAN. "It's just terrible."

About 200,000 people have died since Indonesia invaded the islands in 1975.

Dias will never rid his mind of the images of the piles of bodies he saw in November of 1991 when Indonesian soldiers opened fire on peaceful demonstrators in Dili.

While working in the medical laboratory of a military hospital, Dias saw many of the dead and wounded arrive at the morgue.

Soldiers piled the victims — some who were still alive — in the hospital morgue.

"They were crying out to me, saying 'brother, please help me.' " Dias remembered softly. "But I couldn't do anything or they would have killed me, too."

The soldiers asked medical laboratory staff to give them sulphuric acid injections, Dias said. But they changed their minds when they realized the victims would cry and scream from the pain.

Instead, they gave the victims pills that slowly killed them.

"I was so afraid," he said. "I told them I couldn't stand the sight of blood. So I went to the toilet and cried."

A few years later, Dias managed to flee the country with a fake passport.

He's been trying to win freedom for his family and friends ever since.

"I'm shook up by what he said," James Gauthier said, after Dias broke into tears and leaned on the shoulders of a RETAN member for support. "This is such an obvious violation of human rights."

A group of RETAN members are headed for Vancouver this week to protest Soharto's presence in Canada.

East Timor speaker visits Regina

BY SARAH MCQUARRIE
the Carillon

While many Regina citizens were getting ready for the Grey Cup last Saturday, U of R students were taking part in a demonstration for the freedom of students halfway around the world.

About thirty Regina citizens, including a dozen university students, gathered in front of Victoria Park to commemorate the hundreds killed in Dili, East Timor, when the Indonesian military opened fire on a peaceful demonstration.

"(The rally) put a human face on the tragedy in East Timor and reminded me that the struggle continues" said James Gauthier, Executive member of the University of Regina East Timor Alert Network (URETAN).

Joao Antonio Dias, the East Timorese speaker at the rally, was present at the Dili massacre on Nov. 12, 1991.

Dias, a medical analyst in the military hospital, witnessed the Indonesian military's systematic murdering of the wounded

Dias stated that the morgue was filled with bodies, some dead, and some still alive.

"The survivors were calling for their mothers. They were calling out for help. The military's response was to stab them with daggers, with rifle butts and smashed their heads against the rocks."

Originally, the military had planned to kill the wounded with sulfuric acid injections but were concerned that the wounded would scream too loudly

Dias related that they left, and returned with "two jars of pills" which they administered to each patient. Dias later found out that the pills were disinfectant.

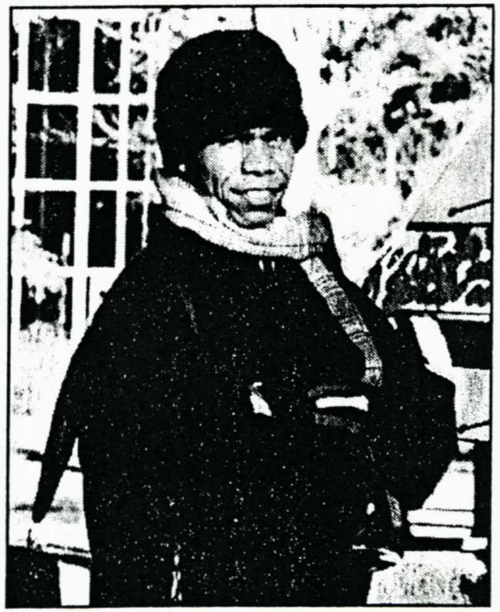
"After taking the pills, the wounded started to lose their strength and their breathing became weaker." Dias said. "After a while, the soldiers returned. They killed anyone who was still alive by crushing their heads against the stones. The survivors could not scream anymore."

Dias had to flee East Timor and is currently a chemical engineering student at the University in Lisbon, Portugal.

He is taking part in a national campaign against the APEC summit. Indonesian president Suharto will be taking part in the upcoming economic summit in Vancouver.

Dias and the Canada-wide East Timor Alert Network are calling for Suharto's arrest upon his arrival in Canada on war crimes charges.

"It's an outrage that...so called 'humanitarian countries' like Canada can turn a blind eye to the genocide in East Timor" Gauthier says.



Joao Antonio Dias

Dias issued a special appeal to Regina students to show their solidarity with East Timorese students.

"If students don't struggle for our country, who will struggle for our country?" he asks.

"We are students struggling in East Timor, and we need all the students in the world, especially in Canada, in Regina...to support our struggle."

Sharmeen Khan, a U of R student who is also vice-president of the University of Regina East Timor Alert Network (URETAN), supports that struggle.

"I've always respected people who fight for self determination. The situation (in East Timor) is so easily preventable if we all just yelled louder," she says.

Last Friday, University students in East Timor were fired upon by the Indonesian military after they held a candlelight vigil commemorating the Dili massacre. The military claims that five students were injured, but the students insist that two were killed.

"It is the moral duty of the international community to stop the suffering, the oppression, to stop the rape and to stop the disappearances" Dias said.

PRAIRIE MESSENGER
REGINA
DECEMBER 8, 1997

Rally raises awareness for East Timor

By Frank Flegel

REGINA — Stories abound of atrocities and massacres in East Timor and a group of about 30 people, organized by the Regina East Timor Alert Network (RETAN), turned out in downtown Victoria Park, Nov. 15, to air their views and to protest the arrival of Indonesian President Suharto Nov. 24 for the APEC conference in Vancouver.

One of a group of 14 East Timorese, calling themselves Team Timor, was present at the Regina rally. Joao Antonio Dias, in a pre-released statement, described a massacre he witnessed in 1991 while working at a military hospital. "Indonesian soldiers opened fire on peaceful demonstrators killing and wounding many," he said. The wounded were later killed at the hospital and taken away. He left Timor in 1993 and, along with others, began a protest movement.

Timor is a relatively small island off the northern coast of Australia. It is on the east end of the string of islands that make up Indonesia.

Prior to 1975 the western half was Indonesian and the eastern half Portuguese. That all changed in 1975 when Indonesian dictator Suharto ordered his troops into East Timor and made the entire island part of Indonesia.

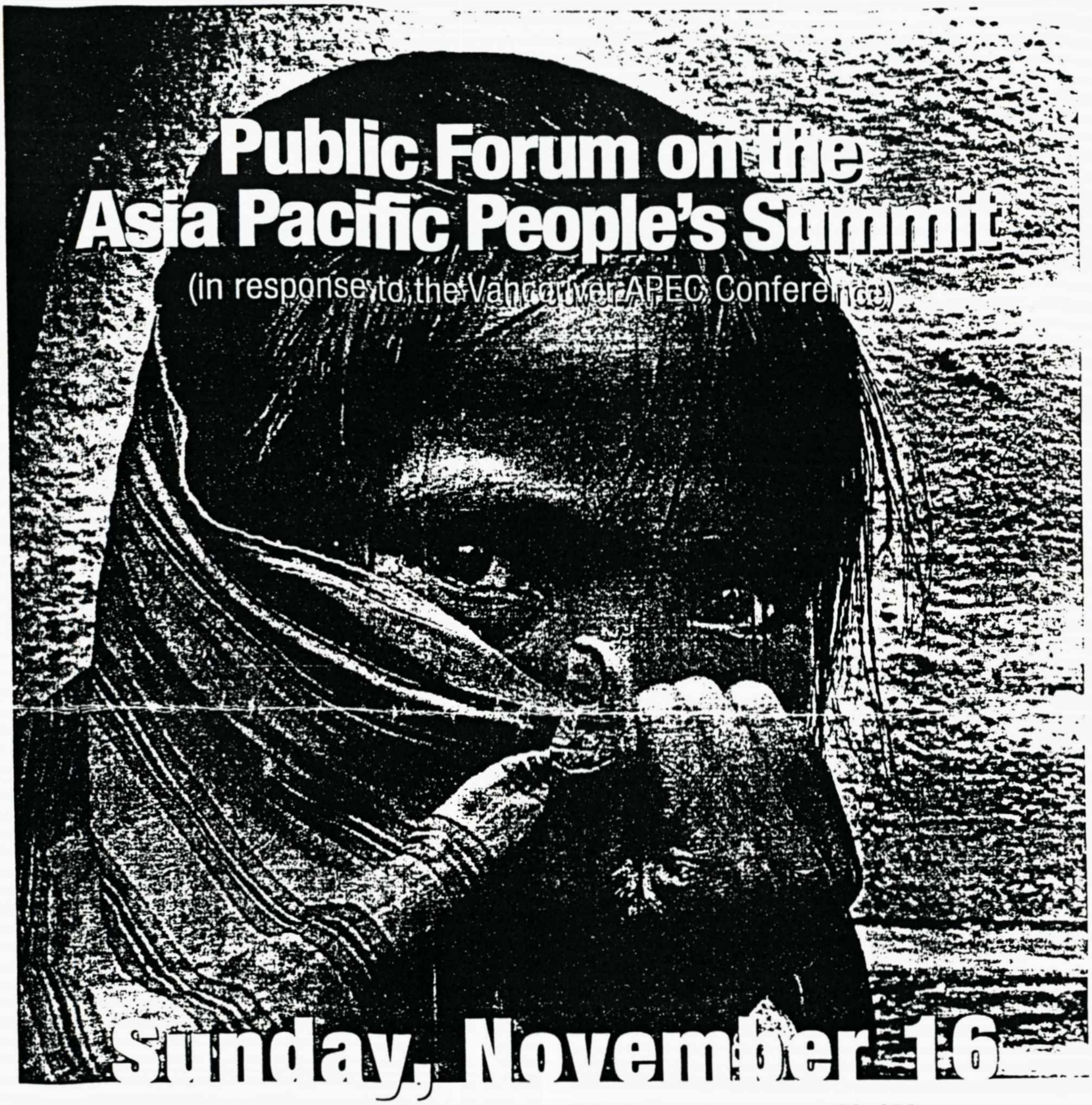
There has been continued unrest as opposition groups within East Timor have fought to free their part of the island. It has been charged that most of the atrocities are being carried out by Indonesian forces. Protest groups have been formed in several countries including Canada to focus attention on the plight of the people.

"It's mostly a conscious raising thing," said Sarah McQuarrie, a University of Regina student who was spokesperson for the Regina group. She said they are also protesting the reception Suharto will receive from Canada as a head of state.

"We also lobby MPs to educate them about what's happening in East Timor and what we think about it," McQuarrie said. Asked why she was concerned about what happens in a small island halfway around the world, she said, "I really feel a moral obligation to do something about what's happening in East Timor." McQuarrie became an activist after watching a film by a Canadian photojournalist that documented the plight of the East Timorese.

Division of International Development

Dialogue on Development Series



Public Forum on the Asia Pacific People's Summit

(in response to the Vancouver APEC Conference)

Sunday, November 16

Carpenter's Hall, 301 – 10 st. N.W.

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. • Refreshments Provided

From East Timor:

For nine years, **Ms. Josephina Ribeiro** has been active in the underground movement in East Timor. Her political activity began when she was sixteen. She took part in the political march that resulted in the 1992 massacre in Santa Cruz. Ms. Ribeiro and her family have been subjected to military interrogation and human rights violations. Ms. Ribeiro fled to Australia where she is currently waiting for refugee status. Her mother and younger siblings remain in East Timor.

From the Philippines:

Mr. Efren Fabila has worked in the mining industry in the Philippines for 20 years. He is currently involved as a mining specialist for the Centre for Environmental Concerns (CEC), Manila Philippines. CEC consults with community groups throughout the Philippines.

For more information call Clare at Arusha 270-3200

ARUSHA • CANADIAN UNION OF POSTAL WORKERS • OXFAM CANADA • DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Alberta Federation of Labour

News Release

350, 10451 - 170 Street Edmonton, Alberta T5P 4T2 Phone: (403) 483-3021 Fax: (403) 484-5928

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, November 14, 1997 **97-59**

Refugee reveals tragedy of life in occupied East Timor

Union co-sponsors event to raise awareness of human rights abuses

EDMONTON — A refugee from East Timor will be Edmonton tonight to describe the suffering her people have endured since their island nation was occupied by the Indonesian army in the early 1970s.

Joesfina Maria das Dores da Costa Ribeiro, and her companion Ceu Brites, will speak about their experiences at a forum sponsored jointly by the University of Alberta's International Centre, the East Timor Alert Network and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW).

The froum will begin at 7:30 p.m. tonight and will be held in the offices of the International Centre, 172 HUB mall (sidewalk level 9101).

Since the occupation, Josephina's family has been subject to interrogation and abuse at the hands of the Indonesia officials and soldiers. Josephina herself has worked in the underground freedom movement since she was 16. As a campaigner for human rights, she took part in the protest march which led to the infamous massacre at Santa Cruz in 1991.

"Josephina has a moving and important story to tell," says Ramon Antipan, chair of the Alberta Federation of Labour's committee on Human Rights and International Solidarity. "It's time that countries like Canada started putting pressure on the Indonesian government to pull out of East Timour and grant people there the respect they deserve."

Josephina and Ceu will also speak at a brunch organized by the AFL. The brunch will be held Saturday, November 15 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Cafe Lacombe in the Crowne Plaza-Chateau Lacombe Hotel downtown.

- 30 -

For more information call:

Ramon Antipan, Committee Chair at 483-3021 or 475-6856 (home)

GM:mw*cep\opeiu #458
File:\comms\news\afl\97\97-59

East Timor: the world

A textbook case study

by Jim Selby, AFL Staff

In December 1975, Indonesia invaded East Timor. For the next 14 years, the Indonesian military closed the area to foreigners.

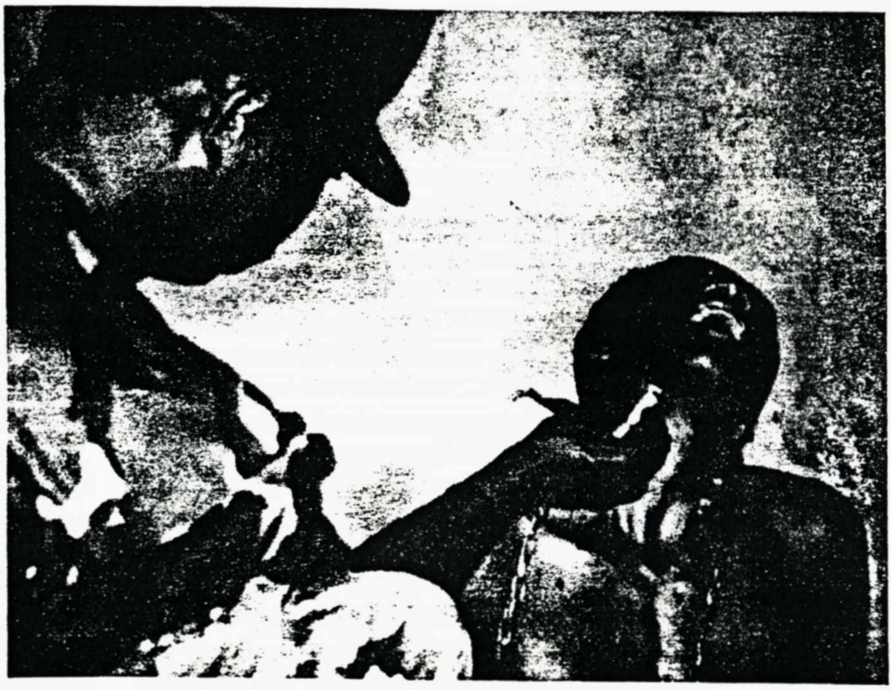
Recently, however, the truth has begun to come out — and a grim picture is unfolding of events in East Timor.

Systematic torture, executions without trials, widespread rape and forced sterilization of women, enforced famine — all point to one of the blackest stains on human history since the Nazi death camps.

Reliable sources quote a death toll of 250,000 Timorese since the Indonesian invasion — fully one-third of the population. Documented photographs of torture and mutilation (that are enough to turn the stomachs of any civilized human being) have been publicized by human rights groups.

Yet, unlike the swift response of the American and European military when oil-rich Kuwait was invaded, no United Nations force has been dispatched to aid the Timorese people.

Above: Starving Tmorese children in a "resettlement camp" in Laga on the north coast.
Below: 1997: Blindfolded and tied to a chair, a Timorese youth is burned with a cigarette by an Indonesian soldier. Note the burn marks visible on the boy's chest and neck.



Crimes against humanity from the start

Massive looting, rapes and executions of civilians by the invading Indonesian soldiers established a pattern of human rights abuse that continues to this day.

However, there are many indications that this is not simply a case of a military regime "pacifying occupied territory".

There is a forced program of birth control for Timorese women — they are routinely injected with the birth control drug Depo Provera against their will. Thee injections are effective for three months and are regularly re-administered.

Timorese women have been sterilized without their knowledge or consent when in hospitals to give birth or to have minor surgeries.

Timorese families have been forced from their mountain villages when their homes were destroyed by conventional and napalm fire. In the resettlement camps tens of thousands died from malnutrition, diseases and starvation.

The infant mortality rate for the Timorese is 135 deaths for 1,000 births - three times higher than for Indonesians.

Eighty-two per cent of the Timorese live in poverty and seventy per cent of those under thirty are unemployed. Yet the military has relocated 150,000 Indonesians into East Timor.

The entire "program" of the Indonesian army appears to be aimed at the elimination of the Timorese people. The word for that is genocide.

Other human rights abuses

Torture of prisoners is absolutely commonplace for Timorese. Rape, electric shocks, burning with cigarettes, removal of nails, immersion in water and beatings are routinely reported.

In villages where there is suspected support for the resistance, young male children have had one arm cut off so that they can never fire a gun.

Timorese are not permitted to gather in groups of more than three — and must obey an 8:00 p.m. curfew. They cannot leave the country without permission from the Indonesian military.

Canadian complicity

Despite a growing global awareness of the atrocities in East Timor, the Canadian government has taken no action. In fact, the Canadian government continues to provide financial, military and diplomatic support to the Indonesian government. Since 1993, the Liberal government has authorized over $362 million in military exports to Indonesia and Canadian investment there has tripled to $9 billion. The Canadian government has refused to support UN resolutions calling for self-determination for the people of East Timor.

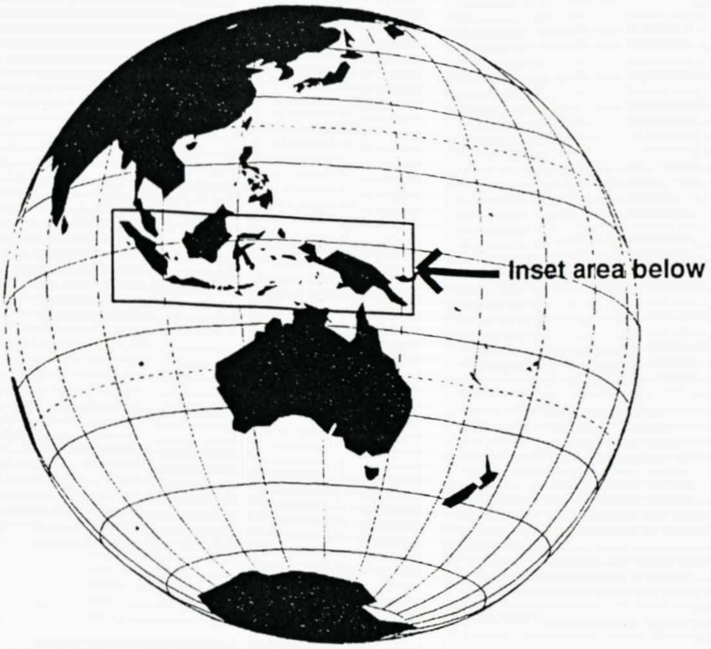
Labour demands action

In 1996, the Canadian Labour Congress convention passed a resolution calling upon the Canadian government to stop all trade wuth Indonesia and declare an immediate and total embargo on all military exports to that country. The Canadian labour movement is urged to riase awareness of the situation and to supportgroups actively involved in assisting the struggle of the East Timorese people.

ignored tragedy...

f brutality and genocide

Exposing the atrocities... Two women's campaign for justice for East Timor



by Linda Robinson, AFL Human Rights & International Solidarity Committee. OPEIU Local 458

Recently I had the opportunity to meet with two women from East Timor and hear first hand about their situation.

Ceu Brites and her family fled East Timor in 1975 when civil war broke out believing they would be returning shortly. However, during this time East Timor was invaded by the Indonesian military. Unable to go back, Ceu has remained in Australia.

Josefina Ribeiro was able to get out of East Timor in 1995 with help from family and friends in Australia. Because the Australia government doesn't recognize Josefina, or other East Timorese in Australia, as a refugee she is facing the prospect of being deported.

Both women have struggled to bring the plight of the East Timorese to the international community. But because of the tight control the Indonesian military has on who enters or leaves the country, they have had a hard time convincing the outside world about what is happening.

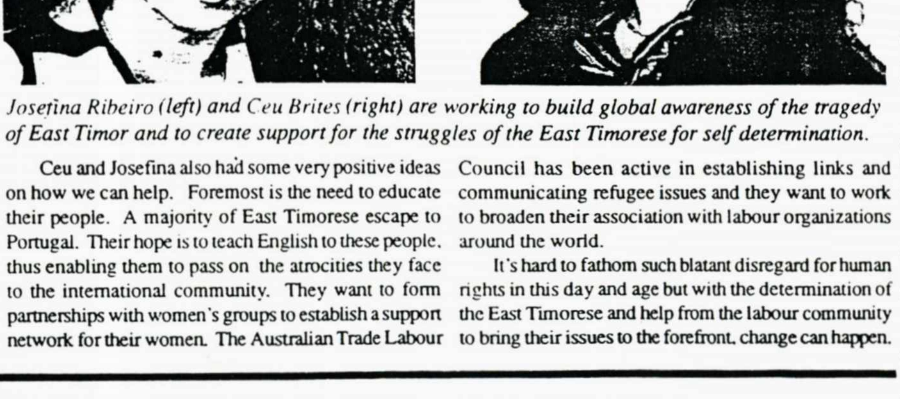
Before their country was invaded they lived an isolated but idyllic life. They were completely self-sufficient depending on the land and each other for their survival. Today they face murder, torture and rape at the hands of the Indonesian. Many children are orphaned and forced to beg on the streets. TB and malnutrition is rampant. Birth control is compulsory and no accurate records are kept. Some young women are injected with depo-provera so often and over such a short period of time that they become sterile.

The military controls all their resources. Coffee, marble, sandalwood and seaweed, products which were their livelihood, are exploited by the government. Hundreds of thousands of migrants have been brought in by the government and the East Timorese are left with high unemployment.

Through all the of this the East Timorese haven't given up. A clandestine movement works to end this occupation. The church is outspoken and protective of the people. The young people are determined to achieve their independence and restore their people and culture. This is a tremendous undertaking but after listening to these women you feel the passion which drives them.

Jakarta
INDONESIA
Java Sea
Timor Sea
Arafura Sea

Too small for the world to notice. Timor, circled above. West Timor is administered by Australia. East Timor (right half of island) was invaded by Indonesia in 1979.



Josefina Ribeiro (left) and Ceu Brites (right) are working to build global awareness of the tragedy of East Timor and to create support for the struggles of the East Timorese for self determination.

Ceu and Josefina also had some very positive ideas on how we can help. Foremost is the need to educate their people. A majority of East Timorese escape to Portugal. Their hope is to teach English to these people, thus enabling them to pass on the atrocities they face to the international community. They want to form partnerships with women's groups to establish a support network for their women. The Australian Trade Labour Council has been active in establishing links and communicating refugee issues and they want to work to broaden their association with labour organizations around the world.

It's hard to fathom such blatant disregard for human rights in this day and age but with the determination of the East Timorese and help from the labour community to bring their issues to the forefront, change can happen.

South Pacific Peoples Foundation
1921 Fernwood Road
Victoria, BC V8T 2Y6 Canada
Tel 250/381-4131 Fax 250/388-5258

November 16, 1997

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister:

Given the appaling human rights record of the Suharto regime, particularly in East Timor, West Papua (referred to as Irian Jaya by Indonesia) and Aceh, we the undersigned, participants in the 14th annual Pacific Networking Conference (November 14-16, Victoria, BC) and representing over 20 organizations from around the Pacific and Pacific Rim:

- strongly oppose your Government's invitation of President Suharto to Canada for the APEC leaders' summit in Vancouver.
- demand that the Canadian government end all support for Canadian cooperation and corporate involvement with the Suharto regime until all Indonesian troops have been withdrawn from East Timor, West Papua and Aceh, and democracy has been restored in Indonesia.
- demand that, in the interim, all Canadian aid for Indonesia be channelled through non-governmental organizations.
- demand that the Canadian government recognize and support the rights of the East Timorese, West Papuan and Acehnese peoples to self-determination, including independence if they so choose.

The undersigned all look forward to receiving your response to these points.

Sincerely,

Stuart Wulff	909 Bank Street, Victoria, BC, V8T 2Y6, Canada
Lillith Bliss Brook	4-610 Albert Avenue, Saskatoon, SK, S7N 1G7, Canada
Clarice Kuhling	903 9th Avenue North, Saskatoon, SK, D7K 2Z3, Canada
Fay Soehngen	11172 Calypso Lane, N. Saanich, BC, V8L 5N6, Canada
Neil Sinclair	Box 97A, RR#5, Saskatoon, SK, S7K 3J8, Canada
Len Usiskin	823 6th Avenue North, Saskatoon, SK, S7K 2T1, Canada
Amanda Bullen	220 Stormont Road, Victoria, BC, V9B 1P6, Canada
Geraldine J. Kenny	Box 348, Heriot Bay, BC, V0P IH0, Canada
Jack Lakavich	3100 Kirwin Avenue, Mississagua, ON, L5A 3S6, Canada
Peter Lantin	114-3501 Savannah, Victoria, BC, V8X 7S6, Canada
Curtis Rattray	Box 95, Dease Lake, BC, V0C 1L0, Canada
Margaret Argue	4050 Lockehaven Drive, Victoria, BC, V8N 4J5, Canada
Megan Lazaruk	1629 Longacre Drive, Victoria, BC, Canada
Donald Erickson	1821 W. Cullerton, Chicago, IL, 60608, USA
Flavia Urerava	Box 726, Madang, Papua New Guinea
Makere Harawira	Education Department, University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, New Zealand
Corazon Valdez-Fabros	31 Dao St. Mapayapa 3, Quezon City, Philippines
Richard Salvador	2424 Maile Way #640, Honolulu, HI, 96822, USA
Richard Morrow	104-730 Vancouver Street, Victoria, BC, V8V 3V3, Canada
Don Kossick	111 Albert Avenue, Saskatoon, SK, S7W 1E6, Canada
Monica Muye	PO Box 3868, Boroko, NCD, Papua New Guinea
L. Pennells	220-50 Songhees, Victoria, BC, Canada
Arlene Wells	1555 Ash Road, Victoria, BC, V8N 2S9, Canada
Rev. Philemon Akao	PO Box 19, Honiara, Solomon Islands

We the undersigned participants of the 14th annual pacific networking conference, representing ___ countries and ___ groups:

1. express our deepest regret at the latest incident in Dili on November 14th where students were fired upon by government troops resulting in at least one death;

2. note that this latest incident is yet another consequence of the brutal occupation of East Timor by Indonesia and the continuing denial of the right of Indonesia to self-determination;

3. demand an independent investigation of the events of November 14th in Dili:

4. demand an immediate and permanent withdrawal of all Indonesian troops from East Timor;

5. demand that the Indonesian government respect its constitutional obligation to support the right of all people, in particular, the East Timorese, to independence.

Name	**Address**	**Phone**

Campaign materials and news clippings: Vancouver

he
ubyssey
VOLUME 79 ISSUE 20 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1997

RICHARD LAM PHOTO

Refugees testify

BELLA GALHOS, an East Timorese exile living in Canada, shed a tear Monday at a mock trial of Indonesian leader General Rene Suharto.

The people's tribunal of 12 citizens found strong evidence against Suharto and determined he should be denied entry to Canada under the Canadian Immigration Act or charged under the Canadian Criminal Code for crimes against humanity.

Galhos, along with others, gave testimony about how Suharto's systematic genocide, torture and imprisonment of the East Timorese people affected them.

Discussing the issue before the ruling, Svend Robinson, NDP MP for Burnaby-Kingsway, suggested Canada should sanction Indonesia for its human rights record. The tribunal concluded that if Canada failed to take that action it would be complicit in Suharto's crimes.◆

Communiqué

dian Labour Congress/Congrès du travail du Canada, 2841 prom. Riverside Dr., Ottawa, Ont., K1V 8X
munications Tel. (613) 521-3400, Ext. 425/6 Fax/Télécopieur (613) 521-0423

Media advisory November 17, 1997

Vancouver - For eight days in November the People's Summit on APEC provides a place for people from 18 countries in the Asia Pacific region to meet, network and develop opposing and alternative visions to APEC.

Convened by non-governmental, labour, and people's organizations, the Summit brings together citizens, human rights activists, academics, trade unionists, international development groups, women's organizations and indigenous peoples concerned about APEC's agenda of trade liberalization.

Event: **People's Summit on APEC**
When: **November 17 - 24, 1997**
Where: **Plaza of Nations (750 Pacific Blvd. S.), Vancouver, British Columbia**

First Nations Elders from the Tsleil Wau Tuth, Musqueam and Squamish Nations welcome us to their territory during the:
Official Opening Ceremonies
Nov. 19, 7 p.m., Enterprise Hall, Plaza of Nations
Keynote Speaker: Jose Ramos-Horta, 1996 Nobel Peace Prize co-winner.
An East Timorese exile, he has spent the last 22 years denouncing the illegal invasion and annexation of his homeland by Indonesia.

Throughout the week participants will take part in issue forums on topics such as human rights, the arms trade, workers' rights, APEC's corporate agenda, public education and research.

- Issue forum delegates bring their plans together in a full day plenary, Saturday Nov. 22;
- then come together for a celebration of song and dance the evening of November 22nd; and
- on Nov. 23 the Summit takes its message to the streets, marching from the Plaza of Nations into the downtown streets.

- 30 -

All media to the People's Summit must register, 3rd Floor, Enterprise Hall, Plaza of Nations, Wednesday, November 19th, 8:00 a.m.
For more information on the People's Summit contact:
Grace Cameron at (604) 682-1952, fax (604) 682-1931. E-mail popsum97@bc.sympatico.ca

"A week of People's Summit activities, November 17-24, 1997" (code 10690) is available from Canada NewsWire's information on-demand service. All information is immediately retrievable to media with a touch-tone phone and fax machine, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To retrieve dial 1-800-238-7718.

LLR/tmk/opeiu 225/G:\PRESS-97\summ-ad.wpd

Activists hope to make room for rights on APEC agenda
People's Summit highlights trade's human impact

The Toronto Star
November 17, 1997, Monday, FINAL EDITION

By Allan Thompson Toronto Star

Human rights will not be on the agenda at this week's Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation summit, but try as they might, the 18 world leaders meeting in Vancouver won't be able to avoid the subject.

As Canada prepares to roll out the red carpet for leaders of countries that have been criticized for human rights abuses, a coalition of rights, labour and environmental activists has made a concerted effort to overshadow the summit's narrow agenda, which focuses on trade liberalization.

Their message is clear: Trade is about people, and you can't talk about economics without dealing with its impact on human rights.

"In the real world, you can't separate people from economics," said Gaurie Sreenivasan, a policy co-ordinator at the Canadian Council for International Co-operation.

"Globalization must have a moral compass," the Montreal- based International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development said in its publication Human Rights: APEC's Missing Agenda.

"Democratic countries explicitly ally themselves with some of the most repressive and/or corrupt regimes in the world, and shut out the voices of civil society seeking to represent diverse interests."

A focal point for activists has been the fact that Canada will play host to representatives of such nations as China and Indonesia. Chinese President Jiang Zemin, Indonesian President Suharto and others on the APEC guest list can expect noisy protests whenever they appear in public in Vancouver.

PRIVATE SECTOR

But activists have also focused on APEC's agenda and its proclivity for excluding non-business interests from its deliberations.

While APEC reaches out to the private sector, almost all of the forum's machinery, from ministerial meetings to an array of working groups, are closed to non-governmental organizations and citizens groups.

According to senior Canadian government officials who have co-ordinated the APEC agenda, the meetings will have three main objectives: assistance to the private sector in the area of trade liberalization, the capacity of APEC economies to grow through infrastructure development, and broadening APEC's engagement beyond the business community.

But the agenda stops well short of any discussion of human rights or labour standards.

"Of course, APEC's mandate is a purely trade and economic mandate and therefore it does not deal with political issues or with human rights, per se," a Canadian official said at a media briefing. "At the same time, much of the work that goes on within APEC is relevant to fundamental rights."

A top adviser to the Prime Minister, who will host the gathering, was quick to point out that in bilateral meetings with leaders, Jean Chretien will raise human rights issues.

But diplomatic missives behind closed doors will do little to satisfy the array of activists scheduled to attend the alternative People's Summit, which begins today in Vancouver and runs for a week.

The alternative summit will include a number of high-profile events meant to highlight what is missing from the formal APEC agenda and will feature such keynote speakers as Jose Ramos Horta, the human rights activist from East Timor who shared the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize.

The People's Summit will try to counter the case made by APEC leaders that market pressures and open trade contribute to an improved climate for human rights in a sort of trickle-down effect.

REPRESSIVE REGIME

Human rights advocates say the pattern of trade and investment liberalization being pushed by APEC leaders raises a number of serious human rights and development issues. Investment in developing APEC countries has often resulted in foreign-owned factories attracted by tax incentives and dirt-cheap labour.

Indonesia, for instance, after 30 years of foreign investment and trade and a remarkable rate of economic growth, has not produced a more open political climate. Instead, it has fostered the continued power and repressive regime of the Suharto family, the brutal military occupation of East Timor and abuses of civil and political rights through Indonesia.

Increased trade liberalization can also lead to increased political repression.

In the Philippines, changes to mining legislation meant to encourage private investment paved the way for the exploration and purchase of ancestral indigenous lands by Canadian- based companies. Native people protesting the land grabs have been subject to human rights violations by the military.

Activists argue that APEC leaders are deluding themselves if they think long-term economic growth and development can ignore human rights.

"Genuine, sustainable development depends on the rule of law, government accountability and transparency, the same factors that guarantee human rights," Amnesty International secretary-general Pierre Sane said in advance of the summit.

Indonesia confident Canada can handle possible protests

JAKARTA POST

November 18, 1997, Tuesday

JAKARTA (JP): Indonesia is confident that the Canadian government can ensure that possible demonstrations against leaders attending the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in Vancouver next week does not get out of hand.

While acknowledging demonstrations are a form of public expression, Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Alatas maintained that it should be done in an orderly manner.

"We hope the Canadian government will be able to control demonstrators so they don't pose a risk to the heads of economies as well as other participants," Alatas said.

"People are free to protest and they can have varying opinions, but it isn't proper for them to use harsh words," he added.

President Soeharto is scheduled to attend the annual APEC leaders' meeting in Vancouver from Nov. 24 to Nov. 25.

A large Indonesian government contingent will also be arriving ahead of Soeharto, to attend preceding meetings, led by the Coordinating Minister for Production and Distribution Hartarto.

Canada has a history of being a strong critic of Indonesia's human rights issues. A strong East Timor lobby is also known to be prevalent in Canada.

It is feared that Soeharto's arrival in Vancouver will be met by a large demonstration, and officials here are wary of a possible repeat of the events which transpired in Dresden, Germany in 1995.

While visiting this quiet German town, about 100 demonstrators surrounded a museum which Soeharto was visiting, throwing anti-Indonesian pamphlets and shouting profanities.

Though Soeharto remained calm throughout the incident, waving and smiling at the crowd, many were alarmed at the protesters' close proximity to the President. German officials promptly apologized for the incident.

Alatas said yesterday that demonstrations and protests are common in countries like Canada. While expressing a tone of caution, Alatas did not seem worried that possible anti-Indonesian protests would get severe.

There is no need to worry about possible demonstrations against the Indonesian government in Vancouver, Alatas remarked.

Donald Babick: President and publisher
Michael Cooke: Editor-in-Chief
Vivienne Sosnowski: Managing Editor
James McNulty: Editorial Page Editor

Our View

Member of the B.C. Press Council
Founded in 1898
Published by Pacific Press,
a division of Southam Inc.,
200 Granville Street, Ste. 1, Vancouver, B.C.

Human wrongs

CHINA'S CALCULATED release of pro-democracy dissident Wei Jingsheng brings the issue of international human rights sharply into focus as Vancouver's APEC conference approaches.

No one should be fooled into thinking that Wei's release signals a new era of freedom in Jiang Zemin's China. Wei, who spent 16 of his last 20 years locked away in brutal conditions for the "crime" of espousing democratic values, is a mere pawn in the game of posturing and doublespeak that marks authoritarian governments like Jiang's.

Jiang Zemin has refused to address China's abysmal human rights record

Most foreign observers agree Wei was released by China as a sop to the U.S. for rolling out the red carpet when Jiang visited a few weeks ago. "When they need to offer a concession for political reasons, they release someone they never should have arrested in the first place" notes Sidney Jones of Human Rights Watch-Asia.

It is important to remember that Jiang refused to address his nation's abysmal human rights record when he met with U.S. President Bill Clinton. Nor is he likely to at the APEC conference, where human rights isn't even on the agenda. The topic would be far too embarrassing for the likes of Jiang and Indonesian strongman President Suharto, who has presided over the deaths of hundreds of thousands of East Timorese since his country invaded in a show of brute force.

No, APEC is about money, trade and business. "We should not use human rights and social agendas to stall the progress of APEC," says local Liberal apologist Raymond Chan, secretary of state for Asia-Pacific affairs.

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy claims increased trade with rogue nations will eventually allow democracies such as Canada and the U.S. to have an influence in human rights; he calls the approach "principled pragmatism." Critics accuse the Liberals of ignoring principles in the quest to boost Canada's commerce with Asia, which now accounts for about 10 per cent of our total trade.

The fact is that APEC, which is less than 10 years old, will never be a respected international organization until it *does* address human rights. In the meantime, the very least Canada and the U.S. can do is adopt the attitude suggested by former Liberal cabinet minister Warren Allmand, now head of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development. If Thailand or Indonesia ask APEC partners for economic help, Allmand says it should come at a price. "We say to Indonesia: 'You want our money. Let's have a plan on how you're going to respect certain conventions.'"

Activists gearing up for protests

The APEC forum is supposed to be an informal, non-political group that focuses on liberalizing trade.

But it will be hard to escape politics when leaders of the 18 Asia-Pacific economies meet in Vancouver on Nov. 24-25.

Human-rights activists, many of them teenagers, are gearing up for protests.

They say oppressive working conditions in some Third World countries will just get worse under the influence of APEC.

Charlene Sayo, 17, of Vancouver is working on a campaign called No! to APEC.

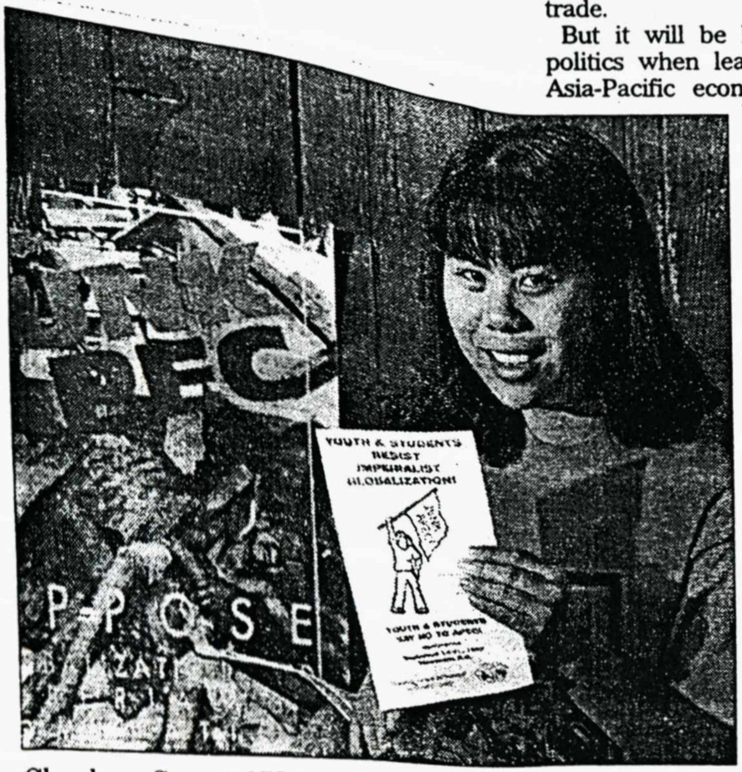
"It is a rush," she says. "I feel like I'm involved to educate people and to stop the effects of APEC."

Chinese President Jiang Zemin is blamed by many for the bloody slaughter of pro-democracy demonstrators at Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989. Critics say Canada shouldn't even be hosting Jiang while he refuses to acknowledge the massacre and continues to persecute dissidents.

Indonesian President Suharto has presided over the rapid economic growth of his South Pacific island country. But he has also been condemned for Indonesia's invasion and occupation of neighboring East Timor, a former Portuguese colony that was briefly independent.

U.S. President Bill Clinton is under fire at home for his administration's ambivalent attitude towards China. His Democratic party has been accused of accepting illegal campaign contributions linked to China. Critics say the U.S. government seems more concerned about trade links than human rights.

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien chairs the forum this year. His success depends on how well he can keep the leaders focused on the agenda and avoid political squabbles.


YOUTH & STUDENTS RESIST IMPERIALIST GLOBALIZATION!
YOUTH & STUDENTS SAY NO TO APEC!
P-POSE

Charlene Sayo of Vancouver is working on a campaign called No! to APEC.

APEC meeting tightly guarded

Nov. 18, 1997

By DAVID CRARY

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) - From unauthorized street hockey games to a mock war-crimes trial, activists were scrounging for attention to protest the high-powered, tightly guarded Asia-Pacific summit that begins here this week.

A dizzying array of grievances - from those against child labor, the repression of dissidents, destructive forestry practices, the oppression of women - was being aired by groups who resent the narrow trade-and-economics focus of the official summit agenda.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum makes an ideal target for protests. Its 18 members include countries with poor human rights records, such as Indonesia and China, and countries known as defenders of human rights, such as Canada and the United States.

Although the presidents and prime ministers aren't due in Vancouver until the weekend, protesters already have chosen their prime targets: Indonesian President Suharto and Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

Suharto, widely criticized for the repressive annexation of East Timor, was convicted in absentia at a mock war-crimes trial last week in Ottawa. Trial organizers said Suharto should be barred from entering Canada, but the government insisted he was welcome - and recently signed a joint declaration aimed at improving relations with Indonesia.

``Instead of barring him as a war criminal, Canada is rolling out the red carpet," said Svend Robinson, a left-wing opposition member of

Canada's Parliament. ``It is absolutely disgusting to see the extent to which the pursuit of corporate greed is now driving the government's foreign policy."

Jiang is assured a mixed welcome: He will be guest of honor Sunday night at a $720-a-plate dinner hosted by the city of Vancouver, but activists vow to protest outside the banquet hall.

Canada says it tried to include human rights on the APEC agenda, but gave up in the face of resistance from many Asian governments.

``We would not use human rights and social agendas to stall the progress of APEC," said Canada's secretary of state for Asia, Raymond Chan.

So while top APEC officials debate trade liberalization and Asia's tumultuous markets, an alternative five-day People's Summit will draw more than 1,000 delegates from the 18 member states.

The keynote speaker at Wednesday night's opening session will be José Ramos-Horta, co-winner of the 1996 Nobel Peace prize for his advocacy of human rights in East Timor.

A principle focus of the People's Summit will be workers' rights,

including child labor and sweatshop working conditions. Representatives of Asian peasant movements will attend, as will union leaders concerned about the repression of trade unions in Asia.

Another grievance is the status of women. Last year, APEC established a network of leading businesswomen in an attempt to bring women's perspectives into its decision-making. But women's rights and anti-poverty groups dismiss the initiative as tokenism.

``Any government that does not include the issues of women - like increased poverty, unemployment, trafficking in women - in the development of economic policies is in effect violating women's economic human rights," said Joan Grant-Cummings, president of Canada's largest women's-rights coalition.

As host, Canada has maintained a tricky balancing act - trying to avoid offending guests, such as Suharto, while also attempting to avoid alienating human-rights groups. It contributed about $144,000 to the People's Summit, but insisted none of it could be used to bring Asian dissidents to Vancouver.

One student group, APEC Alert, played weekly unauthorized street hockey games in the driveway of the president's house at the University of British Columbia, the venue for a closing-day luncheon for APEC leaders next Tuesday.

East Timor issue offers bumpy ride on Suharto's 12-day tour

South China Morning Post
November 19, 1997
SECTION: News; Pg. 15
LENGTH: 381 words

BYLINE: JENNY GRANT in Jakarta

President Suharto has left Indonesia on a 12-day tour of Namibia, South Africa and Canada set to be dominated by East Timor.

Planned protests in Canada could prove particularly embarrassing.

President Nelson Mandela, now acting as a peace broker in the East Timor conflict, invited Mr Suharto to South Africa after his Jakarta visit last July.

While officials claim the visit will focus on trade, most of the back-room talk and media attention will focus on East Timor.

Mr Mandela is set to repeat his call to free the jailed East Timorese leader Xanana Gusmao who is serving a 20-year jail term in Jakarta for resisting Indonesian rule in the ex-Portuguese colony.

South Africa's Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo said he hoped the visit would break the impasse over the plan to free Gusmao.

Mr Suharto allowed a rare visit between the South African statesman and Gusmao in Jakarta last July.

Pundits say the good relations between both men does not mean Mr Suharto will allow a foreigner to dictate on what he considers a highly sensitive domestic affair.

Mr Suharto will face public protests upon arrival in Vancouver on November 24 for the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum.

One group calling itself Team Timor has already begun a week-long mock judicial hearing called "Suharto on Trial" and plans to protest at the Indonesian Embassy.

The group plans big demonstrations on November 24 and 25 by Indonesian and Timorese "guests" travelling from Canada and the US.

Protesters will be agitated by an incident at the University of East Timor in the capital Dili on Friday when witnesses claimed two students were killed during clashes.

Mr Suharto will end his trip with a pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

Indonesian police yesterday questioned Gusmao in connection with a bomb plot, a lawyer said.

"I don't think he will be turned into a suspect," Lawyer Luhut Pangaribuan from the Indonesian Legal Aid and Human Rights Association said after accompanying Gusmao during questioning at Jakarta's Cipinang jail.

Association executive director Hendardi said Gusmao was questioned about the discovery in September of a bomb-making operation in Demak, central Java, involving East Timorese youths. Nine youths were arrested.

The Globe and Mail, Wednesday, November 19, 1997

International News

WORLD BUZZ / *Details of how people behave are not supposed to intrude.*

Rights no concern of APEC

BY PAUL KNOX
The Globe and Mail

THE Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum is a strange duck. It looks and waddles like a global summit but its quack is another story. The results generally amount to a bland statement of good intentions and a promise to keep paddling around the pond.

APEC leaders don't reach binding accords or build on existing international agreements. They don't even attend the summits as leaders, at least not in the political sense. Participants are said to represent "economies," not countries — a verbal formulation that apparently had its origins in the desire to get China and Taiwan to sit down at the same lunch without choking on the soup.

Like a blockbuster movie plot, this simple fiction has valuable spinoffs. Unlike most global summits, APEC concerns itself exclusively with markets, goods and services. The pesky details of how people behave toward one another aren't supposed to intrude. APEC is the futuristic nightmare of everyone who fears the eclipse of the nation-state — a forum in which there are no citizens, only economic agents.

But there's another side to the coin. Because APEC leaders are so averse to talking about poverty, labour rights, political repression and the environment, they cede the field to citizens. At your average United Nations conference, the most influential activist groups are co-opted into official delegations and caught up in stultifying negotiations. At the APEC forum that opens today in Vancouver, they'll be on the outside, making as much noise as they possibly can.

Enter Indonesian President **Suharto**, as he has promised to do at the two-day leaders' summit next week. Suharto's aides, who appear increasingly unwilling to deliver bad news, may not tell him about the ridicule he suffers at the hands of APEC activists. They may not tell him about the mock war-crimes tribunals, or the hearings on labour rights.

They may not tell him about the 10 exiles from East Timor, a territory occupied in 1975 by Indonesia and annexed the following year, who have been travelling across Canada for the past two weeks telling horrifying stories of rape, torture and murder at the hands of Indonesian security forces.

But for Canadians, the APEC meeting is shining a spotlight on this country's policy toward Indonesia — a policy that can be summed up as "keep on talking." Canada signed a bilateral human-rights co-operation agreement with Indonesia in July, but Foreign Affairs Minister **Lloyd Axworthy** acknowledged that it contained not even the hint of a commitment to ease conditions in East Timor.

On the phone from Vancouver yesterday, two of the Timorese were baffled. "For us, dialogue has led to nothing but 22 years of brutal occupation," said 27-year-old **Aviano Faria**, who was present in 1991 when Indonesian troops opened fire on a funeral procession in Dili, the Timorese capital. He escaped the massacre — in which 50 to 200 are estimated to have died — by pretending to be dead.

Joao Antonio Dias, 29, was a laboratory technician at the military hospital in Dili. He says he was asked to provide chemicals for injections to finish off the most severely wounded shooting victims. He contrasted Canada's performance with that of South Africa, which has kept up contacts with Timorese independence figures and pressed their case at the United Nations. "The Canadian government knows Suharto is committing genocide against our country," he said. "It shouldn't receive him here."

Last Friday, it happened again. Several students were shot by Indonesian troops during a disturbance at Dili University, two days after the sixth anniversary of the 1991 massacre. The troops fired in the air to disperse the crowd, the official explanation said. (We know the Timorese don't walk on water, but this is the first evidence they've grown wings.)

There are other human-rights issues in Indonesia — notably the denial of the right to form trade unions. "The world is looking," said **Warren Allmand**, the former Liberal MP who now heads the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development in Montreal, of Suharto. "What he's doing is contrary to international standards. . . . You can't say you want to play in the international game and then say you want to play by 19th-century rules at home."

E-mail: pknox@globeandmail.ca

Take hard line on Suharto, Canada urged

By Christina Montgomery
Staff Reporter

Staff photo by Gerry Kahrmann

Nobel winner Jose Ramos Horta: 'I don't believe in revolution.'

There will be an end to the torture and execution of hundreds of thousands of East Timorese — but it won't come until the death of Indonesian President Suharto, the one man responsible.

That was the calm but grim prediction made yesterday by Jose Ramos Horta, the East Timorese rebel driven into exile after Indonesia's takeover of his island nation in 1975 and awarded the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to focus the world's attention on the independence struggle in his homeland.

Ramos Horta, in Vancouver to speak tonight at the People's Summit on APEC, offered a simple message to a nation about to host the international economic summit: Among the leaders Canada will talk trade with is a military dictator personally responsible for mass misery in his own nation — and 200,000 deaths on the small island aiming to be free of him.

Unlike many East Timorese citizens demanding Suharto be barred from Canada — or arrested when he arrives — Ramos Horta takes a practical approach.

Having joined APEC and decided to host the summit, Canada is obliged to invite Suharto, he says.

But that shouldn't stop Canada from pressing for human rights and a stable political future for the country it trades with.

Failure to take a harder line on economic and political reform in Asia, he will argue tonight, will lead only to chaos and revolution.

"And I don't believe in revolution," he said. "I believe in reform, making change peacefully."

Ramos Horta, 47, holds no hope that change is possible while Suharto, 76, is alive but he said he believes the grip he holds on East Timor is largely personal.

"Time is on our side," Ramos Horta said. "He's not getting any younger. The army, those who help him, this will not hold together when he is gone.

In the meantime all that's left to do is bear witness to the horror that continues to unfold.

"These meetings (like APEC) are a golden opportunity for us," he said. "For now the world is listening. And like the 12 apostles, we speak."

Ramos Horta had another message for Canadians concerned about East Timor: Think of Quebec, and be grateful.

"Quebec is an inspiration to us," he said. Although a significant portion of the province voted to separate, "they lost, and they accepted that. And no one was murdered, tortured or shot.

"Compare that to my country, where the same request was met with a savage, Stone Age occupation.

"Perhaps Canada should think of Quebec as a positive lesson, a message. Perhaps it should press for the same opportunity for my people."

CBC National Radio: The World at Six

November 20, 1997

RA: Radio Announcer

LL: Laura Linch, reporter in Vancouver

BG: Bella Galhos

JRH: José Ramos Horta

LA: Lloyd Axworthy, Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister

RA: In Vancouver some photographs showing brutal scenes of torture in East Timor have been released to the public. Supporters of the anti-Indonesian [sic] resistance movement say many women were beaten and killed by Indonesian police. The pictures have been released just days before the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit is to begin. Indonesia is one of the participating countries. There are calls for the Canadian government to get involved when Indonesia's President arrives this weekend. Laura Linch reports.

LL: The photographs were released just as one of East Timor's most notable activists, Nobel prize winner José Ramos Horta was speaking to a hushed audience in a darkened theatre in Vancouver.

JRH: I am optimistic, I am hopeful that by the end of this century, peace can be restored to East Timor and democracy can be in Indonesia itself - thank you (applause).

LL: But even Ramos Horta's optimism took a beating when he saw the photographs – women brutally beaten, sexually assaulted, tortured and killed.

JRH: For me it was a...a profound, profound shock.

LL: Activists say the women died at the hands of Indonesian soldiers last year the pictures were smuggled out. The Indonesian government has always denied that its troops engage in murder and torture. And as in the past, it's suggesting that these photographs are faked.
But East Timorese refugee Bella Galhos, who now lives in Canada, claims they are real painful portraits of terror in her homeland.

BG: I really hope that the Canadian government will open their minds and open eyes and see this. This is not something that is just a photograph – these are real people who have real lives who go through this.

LL: Galhos wants Canada to cut trade ties with Indonesia. That's not going to happen. In fact in just a few days Prime Minister Jean Chrétien will welcome Indonesian President Suharto to Vancouver to talk precisely about increasing trade. José Ramos Horta says that's alright. But Chrétien should make certain he uses his time with Suharto to deliver a message.

JRH: . . .and appeal to him, that for the best interests of Indonesia, for the best interests of Canada/Indonesia relations, that he order his troops, his elements in East Timor to end this kind of practices.

LL: Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy isn't about to promise anything. But he defends Canada's record in the region, noting that it's helped to establish a human rights centre in East Timor.

LA: Under the agreement I signed this summer – we now have the opportunity on a regular basis to hold a dialogue with Indonesia where we can represent this kind of evidence and ask for a response.

LL: There's no indication that kind of dialogue will take place at APEC. Instead the leaders are focussing on business and trade issues. But activists don't plan to let this drop. They are vowing to dog Suharto's visit to Canada every step of the way. Laura Linch, CBC News, Vancouver.

SPECIAL SECTION

APEC

SECTION C

NOVEMBER 20 '97

THE VANCOUVER SUN

Clark joins Nobel peace winner in attack on Indonesia's record

DOUGLAS TODD
VANCOUVER SUN

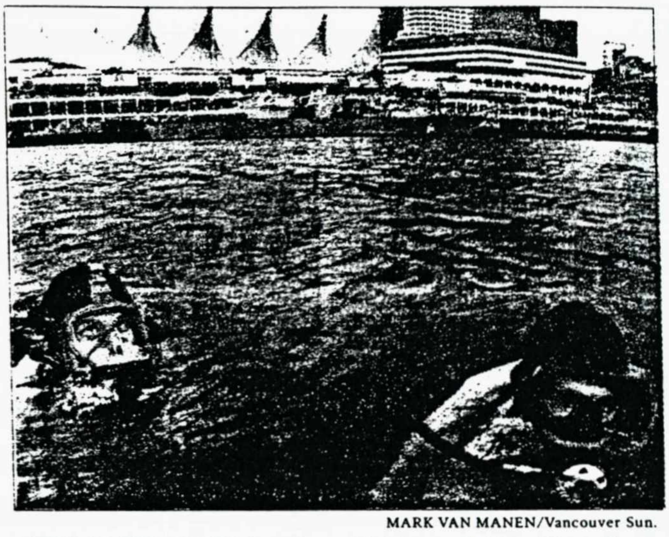
On the eve of the APEC forum, the human-rights record of Indonesia drew concerted attacks from a provincial premier, a Nobel laureate, Canada's top labour leader and an Indonesian social-justice advocate.

B.C. Premier Glen Clark stood side by side with 1996 Nobel Peace Prize winner Jose Ramos-Horta Wednesday to condemn Indonesia's 1975 occupation of East Timor, where Amnesty International says the military has been responsible for the deaths of roughly 200,000 of the nation's 800,000 citizens.

Meanwhile, at the official opening of the People's Summit, Indonesian President Suharto, who runs one of the largest economies in the 18-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, was also named one of the worst violators of human rights within the APEC sphere.

At the alternative conference to APEC, Canadian Labour Congress president Bob White and Indonesian activist Tati Krisnawaty spoke of how Indonesia, along with many other APEC countries, has consistently flouted human rights through torture and corruption, imprisoned labour leaders and ignored environmental standards, all in the name of smoothing the way for multinational corporations.

Summit sea hunt



MARK VAN MANEN/Vancouver Sun.

APEC INSPECTION: Navy divers Mark Paton (left) and Scott Elson survey waters off Coal Harbour as part of the APEC security team.

Surrounded by cameras and reporters at Canada Place, Clark endorsed the reform-minded goals of the People's Summit, adding that it wasn't contradictory for B.C. to seek more trade with Indonesia at the same time it criticizes its human-rights record.

"The situation in East Timor is one of real horror and egregious violations of human rights, which I have no hesitation in saying Canadians abhor," said Clark, one of the few high-profile political leaders to speak publicly with Ramos-Horta, who is not meeting with any other government officials while in Vancouver.

"I think Canadians want their governments to speak strongly in favour of human rights in East Timor," Clark said. "We're a trading country and province. We sell our products. We must do so. But that does not mean Canadians are immune from the issues of human rights, environmental degradation or labour rights. We have an obligation to promote trade — and we have an obligation to speak out."

"We have an obligation to promote trade — and we have an obligation to speak out."

Glen Clark

Ramos-Horta, who has been in forced exile from East Timor for 22 years, thanked the New Democratic Party premier for his support, saying, "He and his party have spoken out consistently in favour of the struggle of the people of East Timor."

Both Clark and Ramos-Horta, who is frequently vilified by the Indonesian government, said they would be disappointed if Canadians did not hold peaceful demonstrations against the Indonesian regime during APEC. Suharto is expected to arrive in Vancouver sometime this weekend.

Given Canada's high level of trade with Indonesia, Ramos-Horta said the Canadian government has made some positive gestures on behalf of East Timor through the United Nations, but not done nearly enough to press for Indonesia to allow the people of East Timor to determine their own political future.

Across town at the Plaza of Nations, where the People's Summit is meeting, White said one of his close friends, Indonesian labour organizer Muctar Pakphan, was arrested in Indonesia after recently attending a CLC conference.

Krisnawaty noted the Indonesian government has threatened to arrest any Indonesian who takes part in the People's Summit.

THE VANCOUVER SUN, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1997

Nobel winner tells APEC heads to heed people

LORI CULBERT
VANCOUVER SUN

APEC leaders will be "courting revolution" if they continue to focus only on economic issues instead of the needs of people, says 1996 Nobel Peace Prize winner Jose Ramos-Horta.

"APEC's political diversity comprising rich and democratic countries as well as some of the poorest and most repressive regimes of the region reduce it to essentially an annual extravaganza of leaders and bureaucrats who are alienated from the common people's problems and real needs,"

SEE SUMMIT, A2

SUMMIT from A1

APEC leaders castigated for ignoring rights issues

Ramos-Horta told a crowd of about 700 delegates who gave him a standing ovation Wednesday evening at the People's Summit on APEC at the Plaza of Nations.

The People's Summit was officially opened earlier in the day by Ramos-Horta, who was the co-winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for resisting the Indonesian occupation of East Timor. Ramos-Horta has been in exile in Australia for 22 years, after his family was killed by the Indonesian military.

The People's Summit, which serves as a watchdog on the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, is a non-government conference organized by labour unions, human rights groups, and research and environmental organizations to discuss the impact of Asian trade liberalization on women, indigenous people, workers' rights, education, the arms trade, and the environment.

Ramos-Horta accused APEC leaders of dismissing as "abstract notions" the following issues left off the summit's agenda: human rights and fundamental freedoms, labour, women, minority and indigenous rights.

However he argued it is the policies espoused by world banks and powerful politicians that are responsible for, among other things, the environmental disaster in Indonesia and the demise of the so-called tiger economies, which has caused misery for millions of people in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand who lost their savings and livelihood.

He also accused the "so-called experts" of being conveniently silent about the recent economic problems in Asia.

BILL KEAY/Vancouver Sun

PREMIER AND PEACE-PRIZE WINNER: Jose Ramos-Horta (right) with Glen Clark, one of the few leaders willing to meet him.

"When a group of leaders meets and ignores the choking clouds of forest fires, the misery of the poor who lost their savings and jobs, indifferent to the armies of peasants and workers expelled from their land. the labour leaders, students and activists imprisoned because of their opinions — then it is courting revolution," he said.

Ramos-Horta warned there is "a serious potential for political and security turmoil" in Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia if the economic crisis is not addressed by a plan that considers people and the environment.

"APEC will not be able to sustain itself if economic growth and trade liberalization remain its only concern. The peoples of Asia will not allow their environment and natural resources that are the sources of their livelihood to continue to be plundered at such an extraordinary cost to them," he said.

EDITORIAL

THE VANCOUVER SUN, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1997

APEC security no reason to sacrifice our freedoms

The police and the civil authorities who control them have the solemn responsibility of securing the safety of 18 heads of state and their entourages attending the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Vancouver.

But the police have a second responsibility, hardly less solemn. Bluntly, in the legitimate activity of protecting the visitors, they must not be the agents of virtual suspension of freedom of speech and assembly. They must not turn Vancouver into a temporary mini-police state of the kind that the most odious of their visitors would approve as a watered-down reminder — though relatively amateurish, much too "soft," of course — of the regimes they operate at home.

This is an ethically delicate exercise. Vancouver, and Canada, welcome the APEC meeting. Good hosts do not extend invitations and then treat guests rudely. And there is merit in the view that Western democracies can best lead by example and influence through trade.

But there is legitimate revulsion on the part of many citizens that some heads of state — and it's no secret that Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Indonesian President Suharto top the list — are being feted and their favor curried while their political foes rot in prison. Activists vow to break up an APEC lunch at the University of B.C. and to march next Tuesday into what police call "secure zones" where they will be subject to arrest. Already some protesters have been arrested simply for writing slogans on UBC property.

RCMP Inspector Wayne May is in charge of the 3,000 police whose ubiquitousness is transforming the city. We hope he has reminded them not only of their professionalism but of democracy's cherished right of dissent.

APEC '97

Don't parade on Suharto's reign

Indonesian minister's stern warning to countrymen who wave placards at his boss

JAKARTA — Embarrass your president in Vancouver, and you'll pay a stiff price here.

One of President Suharto's top officials levelled that veiled threat at any Indonesians seen protesting in Vancouver against his boss next week, Jakarta newspapers report.

"If they are Indonesian nationals, yes, we will take measures against them," Foreign Minister Ali Alatas was quoted by the Indonesian Observer as saying.

Suharto left the Indonesian capital Tuesday for an 11-day, four-nation trip likely to be dominated by the continuing strife in East Timor, the future of Asia-Pacific trade and — in Vancouver — Southeast Asia's economic crisis.

Alatas said people had the right to protest but should not threaten the safety of the Indonesian delegation in Vancouver.

Suharto's expecting demonstrations outside the summit site during his visit.

But Alatas said the Canadian government had guaranteed the safety of his delegation.

"However, we hope the demonstration will not be uncontrollable like what happened in Dresden, Germany, in which our head of state was directly and physically threatened," he said.

Reuter photo

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas (centre) reaches out to his counterparts U Ohn Ghaw of Burma (left) and Malaysia's Abdullah Ahmad Badawi (right) at Southeast Asian nations' talks in July. He's offering a closed fist to Indonesians who protest in Vancouver.

During Suharto's visit to Dresden in April 1995 protesters threw eggs and staged a demonstration over Jakarta's human-rights record including its 1976 annexation of the former Portuguese colony of East Timor.

The demonstrations angered Suharto and military leaders because it was alleged that a number of Indonesians were involved.

One group protesting the Vancouver summit wants the Canadian government to arrest Suharto when he arrives.

The East Timor Alert Network says Suharto should be tried for war crimes for his role in the deaths of some 200,000 East Timorese after Indonesia invaded the island.

Network members said they don't expect Canada will arrest the president, so they will try him in absentia on Monday.

Indonesian authorities consider Canada an anti-Suharto sentiment because of non-governmental organizations that oppose the occupation of East Timor.

After a brief state visit to Namibia, Suharto goes to South Africa, where President Nelson Mandela is expected to renew a request for the release of imprisoned East Timorese rebel commander Xanana Gusmao.

Mandela met with Gusmao in July and said he believed the independence leader could help resolve the two-decade-old conflict there. But his request for Gusmao's freedom was refused by the Indonesian government, which regards the rebel leader as a violent criminal.

After South Africa, Suharto heads to Vancouver for the start of the leaders' summit Monday.

From Vancouver, Suharto and family members will travel to Saudi Arabia for a pilgrimage to Mecca, Islam's holy city.

Suharto, 76, is a retired five-star army general who has governed Indonesia for three decades. He is almost certain to be re-elected to a seventh consecutive five-year term next year.

HE VANCOUVER SUN

IDE LOWER MAINLAND FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1997 http://www.vancouversun.com $1.25 RETAIL $1.35 COI

Speaking out for free speech

BILL KEAY/Vancouver Sun

NG HER POINT: Tati Krisnawaty joined a protest at the Plaza of Nations on Thursday to con-
n Indonesian government warning not to criticize President Suharto when he visits Vancouver.

Jakarta's threat an insult, activists say

DOUGLAS TODD
VANCOUVER SUN

A warning from Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas to Indonesians who might demonstrate against President Suharto when he comes to Vancouver is an insult to Canadians and the ideal of free speech, say Indonesians at an alternative APEC conference.

Alatas told Jakarta newspapers this week his government will "take measures" against Indonesian nationals who demonstrate against Suharto.

"This shows how the Indonesian regime always tries to bully people. They even try to bully people overseas," said Indonesian professor George Aditjondro, who is participating in the People's Summit, a conference set up to criticize the Asia-Pacific Economic Forum.

"This is not only an insult to the Indonesian people, this is an insult to the Canadian people and to freedom of expression in this country," said Aditjondro.

SEE PROTEST, A2

PROTEST from A1

Indonesians denounce official's threat

Although several dozen Indonesians are participating in the People's Summit, out of fear of reprisals they designated Aditjondro as one of their two representatives to talk to the media.

Attempts Thursday to get comment from the Indonesian Consulate General were unsuccessful. A representative said all officials were at APEC.

Tati Krisnawaty, a human-rights activist who will return to Indonesia after the People's Summit, joined Aditjondro in saying Indonesian nationals often find they can only speak out abroad.

But Krisnawaty said she no longer fears Indonesian authorities. "How they treat us is nothing compared to how they treat workers and indigenous people."

Gesturing to media members, Aditjondro thanked the Indonesian foreign minister for doing a "good PR job" by making his "silly remarks." Aditjondro, who's taught in Australia since 1995, urged Indonesians "not to yield to fear — because as soon as we yield to fear the oppressor can defeat us without shooting a bullet."

People's Summit official Shauna Sylvester said the organization will try to exert pressure on Suharto, a former general who has ruled Indonesia for three decades and earned a reputation as a corrupt, ruthless leader.

He's been most strongly condemned for his military's 1975 invasion of East Timor, northwest of Australia. Amnesty International claims Indonesian occupiers have been responsible for the deaths of 200,000 people.

On Wednesday, 1996 Nobel Peace Prize co-winner Jose Ramos-Horta, who has been exiled from East Timor for 22 years, joined B.C. Premier Glen Clark in condemning Indonesia's involvement in East Timor.

Friday, November 21, 1997 The Province

APEC '97

Tales of woe risk wrath of Suharto

BCTV photo

BELLA GALHOS
a tearful tragedy

By Ian Austin
Staff Reporter

Tears ran down Bella Galhos's cheeks yesterday as she told the tragic tale of her childhood in East Timor.

"Most of us went through this." she cried, holding up graphic photos of mutilated bodies.

"Our bodies burned with cigarettes, electric shock, our fingernails pulled out," said Galhos, an Indonesian refugee living in Vancouver.

"What else does the Canadian government need to see so they can change their policy?"

Galhos and fellow East Timorese know they are risking the wrath of Indonesia's strongman president Suharto. As reported in yesterday's Province, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas has threatened any Indonesians who protest at APEC.

SUHARTO

"If they are Indonesian nationals, yes, we will take measures against them," said Alatas.

Galhos told her story at the People's Summit, an anti-APEC event at the Plaza of Nations.

Shauna Sylvester, a member of the People's Summit organizing committee, said Suharto's threat is very real.

"It looks very serious — it's not an empty threat," she said.

"We're asking Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy to seek a guarantee from the Indonesian government that these Indonesians and East Timorese not be harassed, detained or prosecuted when they return home.

"We want the minister to alert the Canadian ambassador to Indonesia of the situation, and to monitor, and if necessary, intervene, to ensure their safety."

Axworthy promised to at least discuss the matter with his Indonesian counterpart.

"We'll have the opportunity as foreign ministers to talk," said Axworthy.

"One of the issues we'll be talking about is how does APEC become more transparent, more accessible to people?"

The East Timor Alert Network says Suharto should be tried for war crimes for his role in the deaths of 200,000 East Timorese after Indonesia invaded the island and annexed it in 1976.

Suharto, 76, who is expected in Vancouver Monday, is a retired five-star army general who has governed Indonesia for three decades.

CBC National Radio "Commentary"

Aired at 8:15 am across Canada on Friday, November 21, 1997

Written and read by Peter Eglin, Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology Wilfrid Laurier University

By all accounts, when the leaders of APEC's member-economies gather in

Vancouver this weekend they can confidently expect to enjoy Canadian security of their persons, a Canadian forum for profitable business dealings, and cordial Canadian hospitality at dinner.

For at least one of them, however, such Canadian largesse will come at the expense of Canadian concern for human rights and the observing of Canada's own laws.

Why, we may ask, is Minister of Immigration, Madame Lucienne Robillard, allowing entry into Canada of the Indonesian President, General Suharto, a man who, by any international standard, is guilty of massive war crimes and crimes against humanity, including arguably genocide against the people of East Timor?

Canada's Immigration Act explicitly provides that "No person shall be granted admission who is... or was... a senior member... of a government that is or was, in the opinion of the Minister, engaged in terrorism, systematic or gross human rights violations or war crimes or crimes against humanity." Senior members of a government includes heads of state.

On what should the minister base her opinion? The many more than one million mostly landless peasants which Amnesty International estimates were killed by Suharto's forces when he came to power in a military coup in the mid-sixties?

The 200,000 East Timorese, about a third of the population, whose deaths were caused by Suharto's invasion and occupation of East Timor in the mid-to-late seventies?

How about the 400 East Timorese, mostly students, either gunned down at the Santa Cruz cemetery in the capital city, Dili, on November 12, 1991 or, to silence their witness, murdered the following day?

Or perhaps the five Timorese students shot down, two reportedly killed, by Indonesian soldiers at the University of East Timor last week?

Amnesty International reports that one student, shot in the neck, was dragged by police from the International Red Cross vehicle driving him to safety, severely beaten and, with the four others, taken to the military hospital in Dili.

All five had been denied humanitarian assistance, independent legal advice, and their families. The military hospital is the same one where, exactly six years ago, João António Dias was employed as a laboratory technician when the Santa Cruz Massacre victims were brought in. Some were still alive. At the mock war crimes tribunals held in Ottawa and Vancouver in these last ten days, João testified, in harrowing detail, about what happened to the wounded and dying at that hospital. He was asked to provide chemicals for injections to finish off the most severely wounded. Others were run over by trucks. Others had their heads crushed by rocks. Twelve other Timorese refugees and two Indonesian dissidents comprising "Team Timor" provided equally appaling testimony about Suharto's thirty-year criminal record.

So confident is Suharto that our government will NOT act against him he has publicly warned Indonesian nationals that they will face repercussions if they protest against him during his visit.

If his utter disregard for human life does not move the minister, perhaps his contempt both for Canadian law and Canada's human rights reputation will persuade her that, whatever business he seeks to do with other APEC member-economies in Canada, he has no business being allowed entry to these shores.

To quote exiled Indonesian dissident George Aditjondro, "he should be barred or put behind bars."

East Timor Alert Network
Urgent Action Request

November 20, 1997

Bar Suharto or put him behind bars!

Lucienne Robillard, the Canadian Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, has the moral and legal right and obligation to bar Indonesian President Suharto from entering Canada.

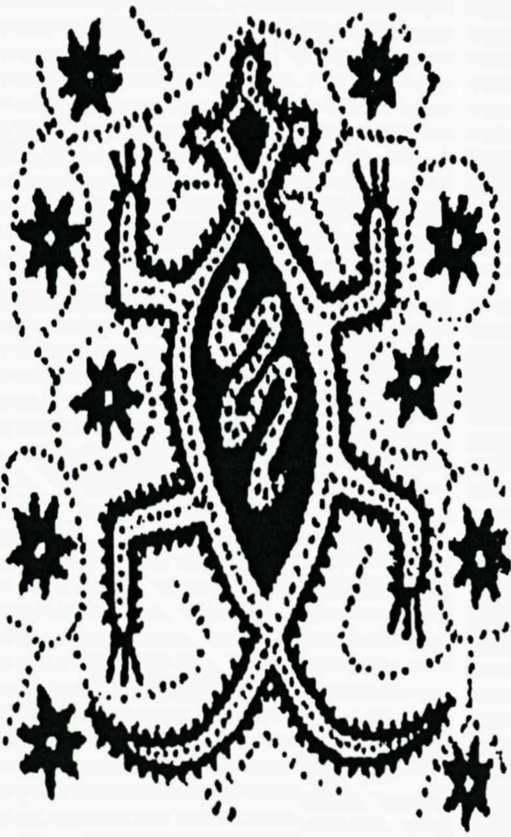
The Canadian Immigration Act specifically denies entry to senior officials of foreign governments who "in the opinion of the (immigration) minister" engaged in gross human rights violations, war crimes or crimes against humanity, which had they been committed in Canada, would have been in violation of the Criminal Code.

Suharto is due to arrive in Vancouver for the APEC leaders' summit on November 23, just days after his troops opened fire on students in Dili,East Timor, killing at least three, and wounding several others. These brutal shootings took place on Novmeber 14, two days after the sixth anniversary of the 1991 Dili Massacre.

Over the past two weeks, 3 exiled East Timorese and 2 exiled Indonesian activists have been touring Canada calling on our government to "bar Suharto or put him behind bars." These dissidents have been testifying about torture, murder, rape and other atrocities they have witnessed or experienced in East Timor and Indonesia.

On Thursday, November 20, and Friday, November 21, please phone and/or fax Lucienne Robillard's office on Parliament Hill and tell her to act now to prevent this war criminal from entering the country.

There is only one reasonable excuse for letting Suharto into the country — Suharto should only be allowed to enter Canada if the Canadian government intends to arrest him and put him on trial for war crimes and crimes against humanity!



Please phone and/or fax before November 23:

The Honourable Lucienne Robillard, M.P.
Minister of Citizenship and Immigration
Phone: (613) 996-7267
Fax: (613) 995-8632
E-mail:
Robillard.L@parl.gc.ca

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien:
Phone: (613) 941-6900, Fax:
(613) 992-4211

You may also want to phone the Embassy of Indonesia in Ottawa, Canada, to let them know that the people of Canada do not want Suharto here.

Embassy of Indonesia
Phone: (613) 724-1100
Fax: (613) 724-1105

Canadian law and Suharto

Canadian criminal code: Section 7

Jurisdiction: War crimes and crimes against humanity:

(3.71)Notwithstanding anything in this Act or any other Act, every person who commits an act or omission outside Canada that constitutes a war crime or a crime against humanity and that, if committed in Canada, would constitute an offence against the laws of Canada shall be deemed to commit that act or omission in Canada at thattime if:

(a) that person is a Canadian citizen or a citizen of a country allied with Canada in time of war; or,

(b) at the time of the act or omission, Canada could, in conformity with international law, exercise jurisdiction over the person with respect to the act or ommission on the basis of the person's presence in Canada.

Crime against humanity

"crime against humanity" means murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, persecution, or any other inhumane act or omission that is committted against any civilian population or any identifiable group of persons, whether or not it constitutes a contravention of the law in force at the time and in the place of its commission, and that, at that time and in that place, constitutes a contravention of customary international law or conventional international law or is criminal according to the general principles of law recognized by the community of nations.

War crime

"war crime" means an act or ommission that is committed during an international armed conflict, whether or not it constitutes a contravention of the law in force at the time and in the place of its commission, and that, at that time and in that place, constitutes a contravention of the customary international law or conventional international law applicable in international armed conflicts.

Canada Immigration Act

Part III: Exclusion and removal of inadmissable classes

1. No person shall be granted admission who is a member of any of the following classes:

l) persons who are or were senior members of or senior officials in the service of a government that is or was, in the opinion of the Minister, engaged in terrorism, systematic or gross human rights violations or war crimes or crimes against humanity within the meaning of subsection 7(3.76) of the Criminal Code, except persons who have satisfied the Minister that their admission would not be detrimental to the national interest.

Meaning of "senior members of or senior officials in the service of a government"

(1.1) For the purposes of paragraph (l) (l), "senior members of or senior officials in the service of a government" means persons who, by virtue of the position they hold or have held, are or were able to exert a significant influence on the exercise of governemnt power and, without limiting its generality, includes:

(a) heads of state or government;

(b) members of the cabinet or governing council;

(c) senior advisors to persons described in paragraph (a) or (b);

(d) senior members of the public service;

(e) senior members of the military and of the intelligence and internal security apparatus;

(f) ambassadors and senior diplomatic officials; and

(g) members of the judiciary.

For more information contact the East Timor Alert Network at: (613) 230-4070

Clark calls on Suharto to free activists

Vancouver Sun, November 22, 1997

On the eve of the Indonesian president's arrival, the premier also condemned that country's occupation of East Timor.

By: Douglas Todd

On the day before Indonesian President Suharto was to arrive in Vancouver for the APEC summit, B.C. Premier Glen Clark challenged his government to free two celebrated social-justice activists from jail. "I join with those calling on Mr. Suharto to release Muchtar Pakpahan and Gusmao Xanana from prison," Clark said to loud applause at a Friday lunch sponsored by the Canadian Labour Congress and the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development.

Clark urged release of the two Indonesian activists after condemning Indonesia's occupation of East Timor earlier this week with 1996 Nobel peace prize co-winner José Ramos-Horta, who has spent the past 22 years in exile challenging Indonesia's widely condemned treatment of East Timor.

All 18 economies taking part in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, Clark said, should promise to protect human rights and endorse the principles of the International Labour Organization, which "include freedom of association, freedom to bargain collectively, no forced labour, no child labour and no discriminatory employment." Union organizers are frequently jailed in Indonesia.

An Indonesian embassy official in Vancouver, George McLeod, said Friday that Clark is entitled to his opinion about East Timor and the jailed dissidents.

But McLeod insisted that both Xanana, whom he claimed was an East Timor guerrilla, and Pakpahan, a labour organizer whom McLeod said took part in a riot, deserved to be in prison.

McLeod also said Indonesian nationals attending the alternative People's Summit in Vancouver misunderstood Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas' widely reported command that they not protest Suharto's visit. The warning, McLeod said, was just directed at Indonesians who might take part in violent demonstrations.

As well, McLeod said he could neither confirm nor deny the authenticity of photos of tortured young women in East Timor, which were released by Bella Galitos [sic] after she received them this week from Ramos-Horta. McLeod said Galitos should take the photos to Indonesia's human-rights commission.

The gruesome photos show naked teenage girls who have been raped and had warnings etched into their bodies by knives or cigarettes. Translated, the bloody words mocked the Nobel Peace Prize winner and said such things as "Don't oppose the military" and "This is what happens to heroes."

Galitos, one of a handful of East Timorese who live in Canada, said Ramos-Horta told her the photos were of high-school students, now dead, who had taken part in a 200,000-person demonstration when East Timor Catholic Bishop Carlos Belo returned early this year from receiving the Nobel Peace Prize with Ramos-Horta.

Earlier at the People's Summit workers' rights forum attended by Clark, noted labour leaders and human-rights activists handed down their verdicts on the APEC forum after hearing the direct testimony of eight workers who told tales of exploitation in APEC countries.

Tohap Simanungkalit recounted the story of Pakpahan, who is facing a possible death sentence for subversion after being arrested in Indonesia for union organizing activities.

Delfina Reyes of Mexico described how a Mattel-Toy-owned company forced her to resign because she was one of several women trying to demand seniority rights.

Ying-chuen told of 42 injured workers who had been trapped in a fire in a Zhili toy factory in China, which had been designed like a jail to let no one in or out without clearance.

Former Liberal cabinet minister Warren Allmand (now president of the International Centre for Human Rights), Amnesty International executive-secretary Pierre Sane, former federal NDP leader Ed Broadbent and Canadian Labour Congress head Bob White joined foreign social-justice advocates in listening to the testimony.

They held a news conference Friday at which they said APEC- member governments must agree to ratify the human-rights agreements of the United Nations and International Labour Organization.

They also called on Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, whom many of them had met earlier in the day, to urge APEC governments to respect basic worker and human rights in any trade policies regarding the Asia-Pacific region.

From the Embassy of Indonesia's web page: www.prica.org, November 24, 1997

ALATAS ASKS CANADIAN PRESS TO BE OBJECTIVE

VANCOUVER – Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas has called on the Canadian press to be objective and balanced in reporting on Indonesia, especially the issue of human rights in East Timor.

Alatas told the press, here Tuesday, that the Canadian press has carried reports on East Timorese issues that have been influenced by propaganda launched through several anti-Indonesian groups.

These groups, he said, frequently raise "facts" that are highly exaggerated and distorted.

Alatas made his comment in response to a photograph featuring Indonesian soldiers torturing an East Timorese which was distributed by East Timor Alert Network (ETAN), a Canadian non-governmental organization.

ETAN reportedly received the photograph from anti-integrationist leader José Ramos Horta. In the photo, the faces of neither the soldiers nor the victim are not seen.

According to Alatas, the release of picture was aimed at cornering Indonesia. In addition, he said it was ridiculous and constituted cheap propaganda launched by those whose hatred toward Indonesia is known.

"How could a photograph of torture activity be taken for released," he asked in the press conference, held prior to the fifth APEC Economic Leaders meeting.

He urged the Canadian community to be intelligent in reacting to reported human rights problems in East Timor, including the photograph released by ETAN.

Alatas noted that the Indonesian Government does not tolerate torture against others, even against prisoners.

However, torture can happen anywhere, he said. It can occur in the United States and Canada and possibly in East Timor. He added that mistreatment may have been perpetrated by a handful of people and this was obviously not part of government policy.

On the protest against APEC and Indonesia launched by Canadians, Alatas said he respects the Canadian law which permits protest as long as they are peaceful.

Several Indonesians belonging to certain Jakarta-based non-governmental organizations were involved in the joint demonstration.

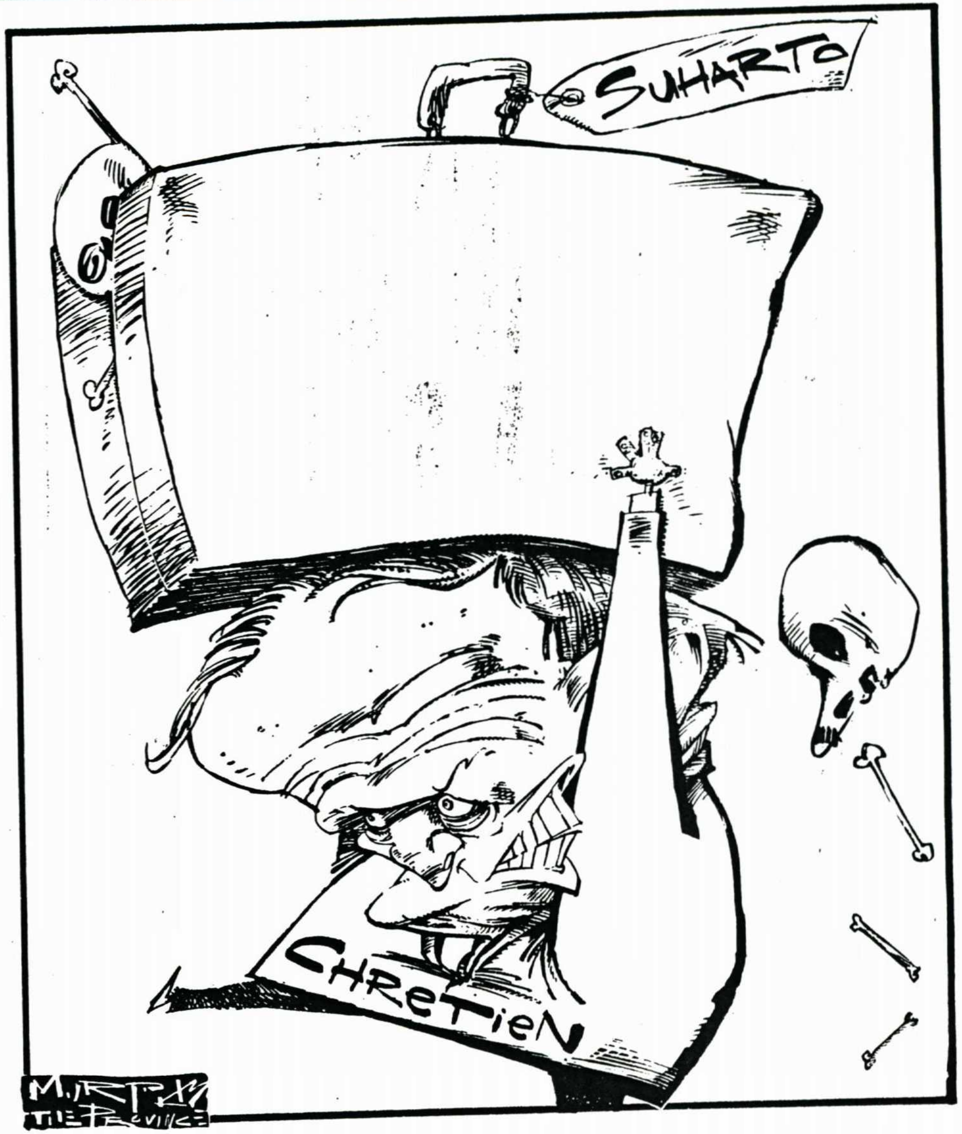
Alatas described as "nonsense" the claims by some activists that he had, in Jakarta, threatened action against Indonesian citizens who participated in protest activities on Canadian soil.

© 1997, Embassy of Indonesia, Ottawa-Canada, Last Updated: November 28, 1997

Donald Babick: President and publisher
Michael Cooke: Editor-in-Chief
Vivienne Sosnowski: Managing Editor
James McNulty: Editorial Page Editor

Our View

Member of the B.C. Press Council
Founded in 1898
Published by Pacific Press,
a division of Southam Inc.,
200 Granville Street, Ste. 1, Vancouver, B.C., V6C 3N3



Globe and Mail Monday, November 24, 1997

By Jeff Sallot

VANCOUVER — The Globe and Mail

With reports from Marcus Gee and Rod Mickleburgh.

Asia-Pacific leaders were working feverishly yesterday to keep their free-trade agenda alive amid a currency crisis and even challenges to the relevancy of their organization.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum risks making itself

irrelevant if it does not expand its scope to include human rights, the environment and other non-trade issues, Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy said.

Citizens and non-governmental organizations are demanding a voice in the decision-making process of organizations such as APEC, Mr. Axworthy told a group of influential Pacific Rim business executives.

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, however, emphasized APEC's economic significance, saying it is primarily a free-trade group.

Mr. Chrétien, at a joint news conference with U.S. President Bill Clinton, said gatherings such as APEC's Vancouver summit allow democratic leaders to raise human rights on the margin in private bilateral talks. Mr. Chrétien said he will do this with Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

Mr. Clinton said APEC is an evolving organization, having had its first summit only four years ago in Seattle, and it will have to work through how it makes itself relevant to people on issues that concern them, such as rights and the environment.

A few hours after the two leaders spoke, about 2,500 demonstrators marched peacefully in rain to the wire-mesh security barricades surrounding the APEC conference centre to protest against rights abuses in some APEC countries, such as China and Indonesia, and the imprisonment of Indonesian labour leader Muchtar Pakpahan, who is seriously ill.

This was quite the sight for Chinese journalists travelling with President Jiang Zemin's entourage. One asked Mr. Axworthy at a news conference whether Canada endorsed the demonstration. Mr. Axworthy, who was once pelted with macaroni by demonstrators, said that in Canada people are allowed to express their views within the law.

Mr. Axworthy, who met privately with representatives of what is known as the People's Summit, announced that the Indonesian authorities have agreed to allow Stephen Lam of the University of British Columbia medical school to visit Mr. Pakpahan to treat him.

Canada has protested against the jailing of Mr. Pakpahan for trying to organize an independent trade union. He faces trial on subversion charges that could bring the death penalty.

Last night, about 100 people chanting "Hands off Taiwan" and "Free Tibet now" demonstrated outside a hotel where Mr. Jiang was addressing a $1,000-a-plate dinner given by the city of Vancouver.

Before the Chinese President spoke, Nisga'a tribal council president Joseph Gosnell paid tribute to the demonstrators as he offered a native prayer to the gathering. "I ask you to remember the people outside [the hotel] whose views I believe must be taken into consideration," Mr. Gosnell told the dinner guests.

Meanwhile, trade ministers from the 18-member APEC organization announced agreement on the weekend on a whittled-down list of nine sectors where they expect their countries can liberalize trade in the next few years. The list included fish and forest products, two mainstays of the B.C. economy.

International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi said the agreement will send a strong signal that Asian countries will not retreat into protectionism even though they face tough times because of the currency crisis.

Under some prodding by Canada and the United States, the Asian countries took a few tentative steps toward expanding APEC's economic agenda to include concerns about the environment and human rights.

Mr. Axworthy gave his counterparts a report from Canadian labour and rights groups that want APEC governments, particularly repressive regimes such as those of China and Indonesia, to start talking about human rights.

Mr. Axworthy told the business leaders that they are not the only ones demanding access to APEC leaders and to be consulted before governments make decisions.

APEC business executives are holding a parallel series of meetings, and a number of government leaders have agreed to speak at the business conference.

"People will begin to question the value of an organization that has only two dimensions [business and government] to it," Mr. Axworthy told the business group.

Powerful international non-governmental organizations are forming, using modern communications technologies to lobby governments on a range of issues such as disarmament, the environment and the rights of labour and women, Mr. Axworthy said.

There is not likely to be any dramatic breakthrough on rights at the summit during the two days of formal meetings of APEC leaders that begin this morning, Mr. Axworthy conceded. But he noted that human rights, in the guise of workers rights, human resource development and broadening of the participation of women in business, will be a major theme in APEC meetings next year.

Mr. Chrétien, playing host to the APEC leaders for the first time, tried to signal Canada's concern about human rights and the environment during a pre-summit speech on Saturday to a group of influential Pacific Rim business executives.

"APEC means business," he said, but liberalized trade and increased investment are not objectives in and of themselves.

Rather, they are a path to prosperity for citizens, he said, and "our common objectives must be a strong economy, strong social programs, a healthy environment and respect for human rights."

Officials said the APEC leaders are likely to spend a fair amount of time talking privately among themselves about the environment because the international conference on global warming in Kyoto, Japan, is to take place early next month

TUNG'S OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK A10 • A SECURITY CHALLENGE A11

APEC

Anti-APEC protests turn streets into street theatre

Braving lashing rain and wind, an eclectic crowd chanted and pranced its way through downtown Vancouver voicing concerns about the consequences of trade liberalization.

DAVID HOGBEN
AND LORI CULBERT
VANCOUVER SUN

It looked more like Mardi Gras than serious political protest as a multitude of groups transformed rain-soaked Vancouver streets into anti-APEC street theatre Sunday.

There was a costumed devil scratching the back of a larger-than-life papier mache Jean Chretien, a protester preaching for an independent Quebec and a bare-breasted woman dancing wildly through a throng of demonstrators.

The anti-APEC demonstrators chanted and sang their way through the streets of Vancouver before halting outside the temporary barricades near the Waterfront Centre and Pan Pacific hotels on a rainy, windy afternoon.

Vancouver police official Anne Drennan estimated the crowd may have been at its peak 4,500-strong at its peak.

But the mood was congenial as bicycle-riding police officers closed off side streets so the four-block-long parade of protesters could safely make it across downtown streets.

"If this is the kind of protest that we can expect during the APEC forum, we welcome it," RCMP media liaison Constable John Buis said Sunday.

Police even loaned an electrical generator to demonstrators so they could amplify speeches.

Despite the theatrical atmosphere, the protesters said serious concerns brought them out onto the streets.

"We want to pressure Bill Clinton to talk to [Chinese President] Jiang Zemin about their negotiations with Tibet," said Gyatso Dakchang, a 52-year-old Tibetan exile now living in Seattle. "The Dalai Lama should be allowed back," said Dakchang, who fled his homeland during the brutal Chinese takeover of 1959.

Patricia Sutherland of Vancouver guided her three-year-old son Jacob through the crowd at the Plaza of Nations. She showed up to support the "agenda of the people," as opposed to the agenda of corporations.

Others seemed strangely out of place, even in such an eclectic crowd.

A man who would identify himself only as Lani carried the

GREED
MILITARISM
PEACE
Malaspina
Students Union
FLOW OF WATER

IAN SMITH/Vancouver Sun

PROTEST from A10

Anti-APEC tent city now home to 100

red flag of China steps away from people carrying "Free Tibet" placards.

"I think a lot of that [freeing Tibet from China] is just plain old anti-communism," Lani said. He and his colleagues carried red and brown flags to support communism and fascism.

But the weekend was not arrest-free.

RCMP at the University of B.C.'s Museum of Anthropology arrested four protesters who had set up camp in what was to become a secure zone during the meeting of 18 heads of state on Tuesday.

Buis said police decided to secure the site two days ahead of schedule.

Three people were also arrested Saturday outside the security barricades at the Waterfront Centre, where Clinton is staying.

Demonstrators splashed what was described as real "uninfected blood" across the doorway of a security tent.

Linda Carolyn Pugh, 31, and Lane Allan Walker, 34, both of Vancouver, have been charged with obstructing police officers. Jennifer Ziemann, 25, also of Vancouver, has been charged with mischief.

Meanwhile, the tent city of anti-APEC demonstrators at UBC continued to grow Sunday. Despite the blustery winds, rain and cool temperatures, about 100 people were camped on the university grounds.

East Timor Alert Network organizer Jaggi Singh said a number of people are prepared to risk arrest in a "crash the summit" march that is scheduled for Tuesday.

They say they will attempt to execute a citizens' arrest against Indonesian President Suharto, who they consider a war criminal.

A host of other marches went ahead over the weekend. Protesters paraded in favour of women's rights, labour rights, human rights and the right of British Columbians to catch their own salmon.

TUNG'S OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK A10 • A SECURITY CHALLENGE A11

APEC

APEC ONLINE: WWW.VANCOUVERSUN.COM THE VANCOUVER SUN MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24.

PEOPLE'S SUMMIT from A9

People's summit aims to ease way for Malaysia event

"The people's summit so far been a constructive exercise," said Axworthy. "It's been an opportunity for a lot of people to make their views known and to share them with us and for us to share them with the other participants in the APEC meeting."

People's summit director Shauna Sylvester said a goal of the Vancouver gathering is to pressure the Malaysian government to allow a similar event when APEC leaders meet next year in Kuala Lampur.

John Price, a Victoria social history professor, said most participants agreed a lack of government regulation led to the collapse of South-East Asian money markets this month.

The economic crisis was a result of APEC-promoted trade liberalization policies, Price said, which had zealously encouraged highly-leveraged over-speculation in stock markets and real estate.

Now that the so-called Asian economic miracle is in trouble, Price said that millions of workers, particularly in places such as Thailand, are being laid off and communities being destabilized.

The people's summit also vigorously opposes attempts at the Vancouver APEC meeting to fast-track forestry trade, said Sylvester.

People's summit participants, including hundreds from APEC countries, generally agreed that the out-of-control fires that are polluting Indonesia and Malaysia were caused by forestry companies operating without environmental regulations.

The problem with APEC's free-trade goals, Sylvester said, is that they treat one country's environmental standards as an unfair barrier to trade.

People's meet ends with call for changes

Alternatives exist to free-trade policies, organizers of the people's summit say.

DOUGLAS TODD
AND EDWARD ALDEN
VANCOUVER SUN

The people's summit wound up Sunday with a native Indian drumming ceremony, a protest march and recommendations on how to combat what participants argue is the devastating human and environmental consequences of APEC.

The leaders of the 18 economies that make up APEC said summit organizers must make commitments to guaranteeing human rights, ending militaristic rules, regulating economic trade, promoting free speech, championing democracy and making APEC deal-making more transparent to the public.

In a preview of the final people's summit statement scheduled to be released today, two organizers said the diverse coalition is determined to work with Canadian politicians and APEC leaders to show there are alternatives to the organization's free-trade policies. The organizers say those policies led to the current Asian money crisis and the forest fires that have smothered Indonesia and Malaysia.

The organizers also emphasized that the thousands of people who attended people's summit events are dedicated to keeping up pressure on Indonesian President Suharto, so he will allow Indonesian critics to express their opinions and organize trade unions.

People's summit organizers met several times with Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, who announced Sunday that Canada would send a medical team to Jakarta to aid jailed labour rights leader Muchtar Pakpahan.

Canada first offered the assistance when Axworthy visited Indonesia last summer, when the two countries developed a bilateral framework for cooperation.

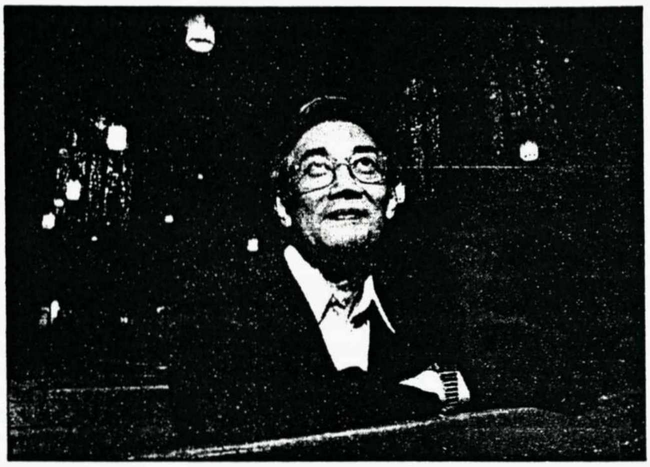
"It's a demonstration that through that kind of direct engagement you can get some very constructive results," he said.

But Axworthy made no request for Pakpahan's release, saying "there are still legal recourses being looked at."

Axworthy also said the ministers were responding to the concerns of the alternative summit by directing the human resources working group of APEC to look at the social and economic consequences of trade liberalization.

SEE PEOPLE'S SUMMIT, A10

International visitors saying 'no' to APEC



WARD PERRIN/Vancouver Sun

OPPOSES SUMMIT: Luis Jalandoni, of the Phillipines, spoke out in a coalition of free trade opponents meeting Sunday. **Story, A10.**

APEC IN VANCOUVER

THE VANCOUVER SUN, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1997 A11

APEC
DIGEST

CRITICAL RESPONSE

INDONESIA'S THREAT SPARKS OPPOSITION

Indonesia is facing growing criticism in the wake of Foreign Minister Ali Alatas' threat to "take measures" against Indonesians who demonstrate against President Suharto in Vancouver.

Canada is actively considering a request to train police forces for the Indonesian government.

Nobel Prize winner Jose Ramos-Horta, keynote speaker at the People's Summit, had this to say about Canada's plans: "I totally oppose it. I find it immoral that a country like Canada should train people from Indonesia whose record in massacres, in rapes, is well-known. . . ."

STA BULLETIN
Surrey Teachers' Association
13585 - 62 Avenue, Surrey, B.C. V3X 2J3
Phone 1-604-594-5353 • Fax 1-604-594-5176 • email: stanews@direct.ca
VOLUME 7 EDITION 1
FALL 1997

ARREST
SU
for

PEOPLE'S SUMMIT
GLOBAL JUSTICE MARCH

November 23, 1997 VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA

(Top) Burmese demonstrators protest military repression while East Timorese exiles Abe Barreto Soares and Joao Antonio Dias (above, l) sing of freedom from Indonesia. (Below, l) Nobel Peace Prize winner Jose Ramos Horta of East Timor is flanked by Bella Gallos (l) and Surrey teacher Jacqui Birchall. (Below, r) the STA's Jim Edmondsen (l) tunes up with Andy Vine. Signs in other photos speak eloquently for themselves.

Photos: Karen Kilbride

CLC fax PRESS

CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS BULLETIN November 27, 1997

Getting the message out on APEC

People's Summit comes to a close

Close to 10,000 trade unionists and social and human gs activists took to Vancouver Streets last Sunday to otest the exclusion of labour and human rights at the PC leaders' table.

The parade of demonstrators was an hour and a half ng and clogged downtown streets for a good part of the letting the leaders of the 18 APEC countries know t the discontent which surrounds this latest free trade ocess.

The march signalled the end of an inspiring and gizing five-day People's Summit on APEC, an inter- tional conference organized to parallel the APEC Sum- ttended by governments and corporations.

More than 1,000 delegates had a full agenda during e People's Summit on APEC, held in Vancouver from ember 19th to 23rd, attending workshops and special vents.

"We have to try and get our issues on the APEC da," said CLC President Bob White during the Peo- le's Summit Labour Forum, an event co-sponsored by the and the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development (ICHRDD). "...Not instead of building a social movement or instead of building international solidarity, but in addition to it. We have to demand that governments start representing people and not corporations. We cannot accept the argument in APEC that the requirement for consensus is an excuse for doing nothing on human rights," emphasized White.

During the Labour Forum, activists heard personal testimonials given by workers from Indonesia, Thailand, Burma, China, Mexico. Testifiers told of workers being caged in factories, with bars on windows and no way of escape during a fire, of the trafficking of women in the sex trade, of being laid-off by the thousands and replaced by child labour, of not even having water to drink during lengthy work hours.

Then, Tribunal judges publicly presented a final report emphasizing that leaders of APEC nations must be held responsible for serious violations in workers' and human rights and calling on member nations to ratify UN and ILO human rights treaties and incorporate them in national legislation.

White condemns threats against Indonesian activists

During the People's Summit on APEC, as Indonesian vists participated in bringing their stories of abuses in uman and workers' rights to conference delegates, the nesian government did its best to flex its muscle hin Canada.

"It's outrageous that activists are threatened with reprisals for exercising basic rights we in Canada take for granted," said CLC President Bob White on learning about a news story in the Indonesian Observer quoting Foreign Minister Ali Alatas as promising to "take action against

(page 1 of 2)

oduced by CLC Communications
) 521-3400, ext. 425/6
(613) 521-0423

Disponible bientôt en français

opeiu225

y Indonesians seen protesting against Suharto in Vanouver."

"The APEC Leaders' meetings should have human ghts issues on the agenda," added White, "and the anadian government should seek a commitment from resident Suharto that delegates to the Peoples' Summit will not be harassed and intimidated on return to their country."

Throughout the Summit, Indonesian activists noted that their pictures were taken by unidentified Indonesians in the crowd and many fear harassment and intimidation when they re-enter their country.

Muchtar to receive medical attention

Early this week, during the APEC Summit, Canadian oreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy announced that Muchtar akpahan will receive medical assistance.

"This is an important first step," says Bob White, LC President, "and we hope it will eventually lead, not nly to a quick improvement in Pakpahan's health, but timately to his release. The Canadian and international bour movement have worked very hard on this case. We e getting results."

Muchtar Pakpahan is the leader of the Indonesian rosperity Trade Union (SBSI) and has been charged and iled under Indonesia's anti-subversion law, as have ther trade unionists fighting for democracy and labour rights. If convicted, Pakpahan could receive the death penalty.

Pakpahan has suffered from medical complications since last April and needs specialized equipment to provide an accurate diagnosis of his condition. The Indonesian government has finally agreed that treatment be provided by a foreign government. A member of the CLC may accompany a doctor and a specialized medical team on the humanitarian mission.

The CLC along with other organizations has lead a call for Pakpahan's release since March 1997. Over 100,000 postcards have been signed by Canadians and sent to Minister Axworthy and President Suharto.

Getting help for injured workers!

The Canadian Injured Workers' Alliance and the CLC, along with the United Steelworkers and Human Resources Canada released two important resources - a video and workbook - for injured workers this week.

The video entitled *Together we can win!* and the workbook, *Dealing with Workplace Injury or Disease*, are geared to help injured workers get through the bureaucratic maze and come out winners.

"Injured workers often report that what's worse than the original injury is the repeated frustration that comes from the barriers to getting the help they need, " said CLC Secretary-Treasurer Dick Martin, during the Ottawa launch.

Errata

In last week's Fax Press, we erroneously urged the boycott of Purolator Courier. Purolator is owned by Canada Post, but its workforce is organized by Teamsters Canada and the Communication, Energy and Paperworkers' Union. We apologize to our brothers and sisters at Purolator who are supporting postal workers by respecting CUPW picket lines and not handling Canada Post or Priority Courier customers.

Please note: FAXPRESS articles may be reprinted without permission.

Timor Alert Network (ETAN)

News Release

OR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 25, 1997

Citizen's arrest of Indonesian President Suharto today

OTTAWA – Members of the East Timor Alert Network will attempt a citizens' arrest of Indonesian President Sharto in Vancouver today, at 9:00 am, at the University of British Columbia.

For almost one year, ETAN and its supporters have been calling on the Canadian government to either bar Sharto from entering Canada, or arrest him when he gets here – but requests to the RCMP, the Prime Minister, the Foreign Affairs Minister, and the Immigration Minister have been ignored. Calls to bar Suharto or put him behind bars have been backed by NDP MP Svend Robinson, the Canadian Labour Congress, the National Action Cmmittee on the Status of Women, and the Council of Canadians.

Thirteen exiled East Timorese and two Indonesian dissidents made a special trip to Canada to make this quest and were not even granted a meeting with the government.

"Last summer U.S. Secretary of State Madelaine Albright recognized the value of Canadian war crimes legislan and asked the Canadian government to use it to indict Pol Pot," said Kerry Pither, an ETAN spokesperson. "We are asking the same for Suharto – we have the legislation, let's use it," she said.

Since coming to power in the mid-sixties, Suharto's military has killed up to a million Indonesian civilians, and illegally invaded and occupied East Timor – where over one third of that population, at least 200,000 East Tmorese have died since. The killings continue in East Timor, where just last week on November 14 Indonesian troops fired on students killing at least two and wounding several others.

Chantal Tie is an immigration lawyer who testified at ETAN's mock war crimes tribunal held for Suharto on Parliament Hill on November 12. "Our government has made a public committment to keep people who commit crimes against humanity out of Canada – this means people who commit genocide against a civilian population," id Ms.Tie. "We have the power to keep them out or remove them under section 19 (1) (j) of the Immigration Act and we should do so. The only circumstance under which they should be permitted to enter Canada is if Canada s the jurisdiction to try them for their crimes and is prepared to do so," she said.

Today in Ottawa, ETAN members will visit the Immigration Minister, Madame Robillard, in her office on rliament Hill, to personally appeal to her to carry out her responsibility under the Immigration Act.

-30-

For more information, contact ETAN/Vancouver at (604) 688-4191, or Kerry Pither at cell (613) 795-1586, or visit our web page: www.etan.ca

Indonesian 'agents' arrested at APEC summit protest

By Howard Williams

VANCOUVER, Nov 25 (AFP) - Two Indonesian nationals suspected of being government agents were arrested here Tuesday during an anti-Jakarta protest on the sidelines of a Pacific Rim summit, security officials and sources said.

"It would seem they were members of the Indonesian delegation," a senior Canadian security official told AFP.

He was referring to two Indonesians who were among 16 demonstrators arrested hours earlier at a protest near the site of a summit of leaders from the 18-member Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

The arrests were made when demonstrators accused the two Indonesians of being "agents" of the Indonesian government, sent to infiltrate the protesters opposed to President Suharto.

Police said they would look into charges from other demonstrators that the two were special agents sent to infiltrate the protest.

Both were wearing ski masks, and Staff Sergeant Hugh Stewart of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) said they would be held until authorities could confirm their identities.

Witnesses said one of the arrested Indonesians asked police to pull down his ski mask to hide his face as they escorted him away.

The two were also carrying walkie-talkies at the time of their arrest, Stewart said.

"I did not have time to question them before they were taken away,"

Stewart added when asked about assertions the two were working for the Indonesian government. "But this is undoubtedly something we are investigating now."

Another officer, who would not identify herself, said eight of the demonstrators taken into custody were apprehended as they tried to make a "citizen's arrest" of the two Indonesians.

She said police intervention was necessary to head off a major confrontation.

Some Indonesian activists have expressed fears of reprisals at home for involvement in protests here against the policies of Suharto.

Stewart said 16 of an estimated 150 demonstrators had been taken into custody after being arrested for failing to obey police orders to remain behind demarcation lines.

Most would not be charged, he said.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas described as "nonsense" Monday claims by Indonesian activists that he had in Jakarta threatened action against Indonesian citizens who participated in protest activities on Canadian soil.

"I was just answering a question then in a very low key. There was no threat, nothing. I am surprised to see that I was quoted here as threatening them with arrest, which is nonsense," he said.

"It was completely exaggerated and distorted because my remarks were general in nature in response to a general questions. It was not related specifically to the people's summit," he added.

Alatas said demonstration alone was no reason for arresting anyone, but made it clear "there were certain provisions of course in Indonesia's penal code that could be reason for them to be held accountable."

An alternative "People's Summit" held on the sidelines of the APEC meeting filed a petition to Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy, asking Ottawa to seek a commitment from Jakarta that Indonesians attending protests here were not harassed, detained or prosecuted on their return home.

Alatas said the protests, spearheaded by the People's Summit that named Suharto as one of the worst violators of human rights within APEC, were a ploy to embarrass Jakarta.

nesia slams demos as Clinton raises Timor issue

rance Presse November 25, 1997

ameswaran

UVER, Nov 24 –Indonesia on Monday
demonstrations held on the sidelines of
EC summit here against alleged human
uses in East Timor as US President Bill
n raised the thorny issue with President

sian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said the
sts, spearheaded by a so-called people's sum-
amed Suharto as one of the worst viola-
uman rights within APEC, were a ploy to
Jakarta.

ople's summit is the alternative confer-
— organised by human rights, labour and
tivists — to the annual talks of the 18-
Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
n.

long there has been highly exaggerated,
stories just to draw the attention of the
le and putting us in the worst light," Alatas
. "What do we do?."

latas spoke as the White House said Clinton
e case of specific dissidents and the East
ituation in his talks here Monday with
arto.

House officials declined to name the dis-
aised, and said Suharto "didn't respond to
directly."

r, deputy national security adviser Jim
nberg said Clinton would raise the case of
bour leader Muchtar Pakpahan, currently
ised in Jakarta while serving a jail term for
dly sparking off racial riots.

ed by Congress, the Clinton administra-
recently stepped up pressure on Jakarta
its alleged heavy-handed treatment of East
a predominantly Christian former
guese colony invaded by Indonesia in 1975.

s declined to comment on a Canadian
ial premier's strong show of support to an
nesian dissident in condemning Jakarta's
tion of East Timor, where Amnesty
ional says the military has been responsi-
or the deaths of 200,000 people.

"That's his right," Alatas said of British Columbia Premier Glen Clark, who stood beside 1996 Nobel Peace Prize winner José Ramos Horta here last Wednesday at the people's summit to condemn Indonesian's human rights record.

Ramos-Horta has been in forced exile from East Timor for 22 years.

"The situation in East Timor is one of real horror and egregious violations of human rights, which I have no hesitation in saying Canadians abhor," Clark said.

Alatas described as "nonsense" claims by Indonesian activists that he had in Jakarta threatened action against Indonesian citizens who participated in protest activities on Canadian soil.

"I was just answering a question then in a very low key. There was no threat, nothing. I am surprised to see that I was quoted here as threatening them with arrest, which is nonsense," he said.

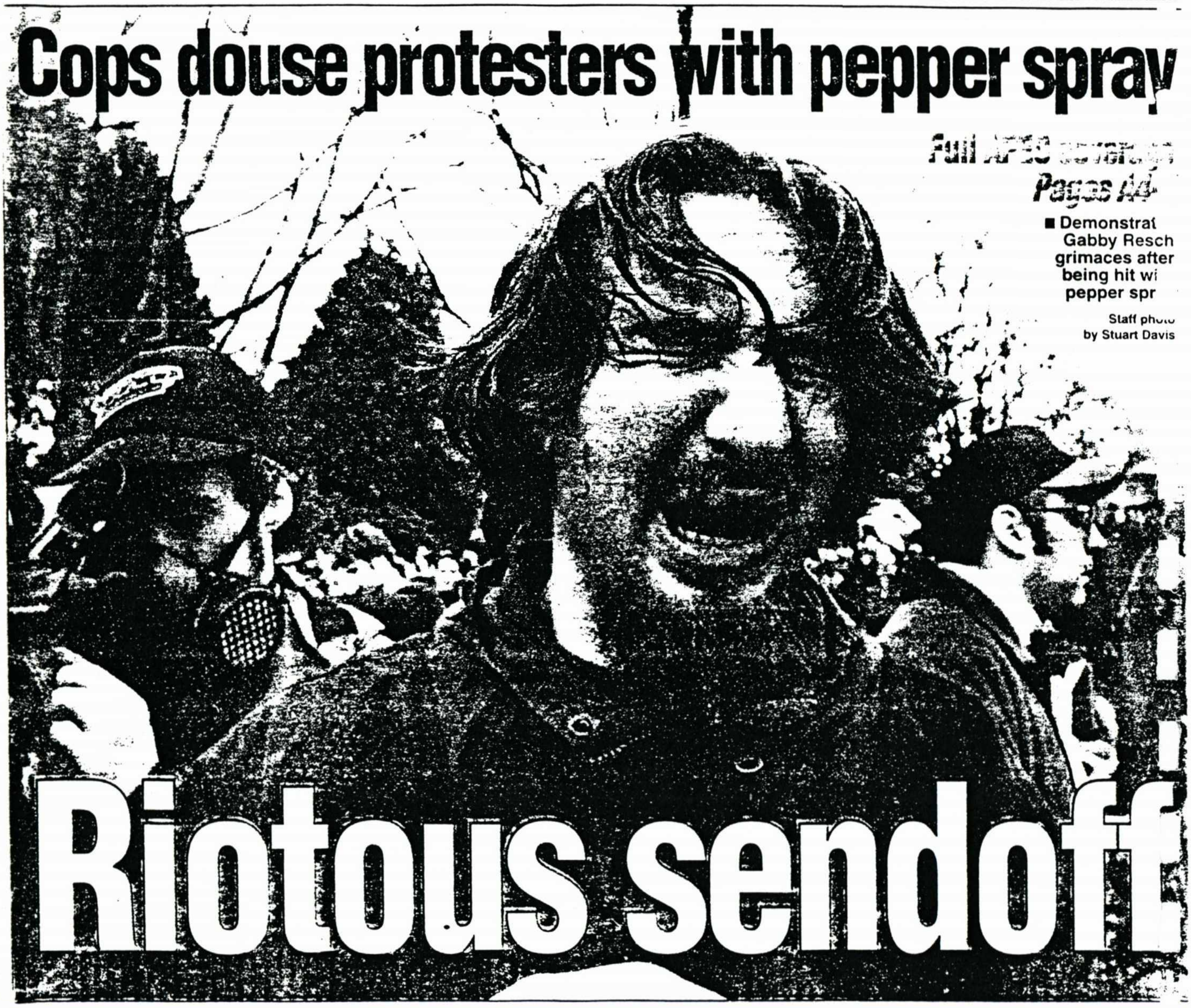
"It was completely exaggerated and distorted because my remarks were general in nature in response to a general questions. It was not related specifically to the people's summit," he added.

Alatas said demonstration alone was no reason for arresting anyone, but made it clear that "there were certain provisions of course in Indonesia's penal code that could be reason for them to be held accountable."

The people's summit filed a petition to Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy, asking Ottawa to seek a commitment from Jakarta that Indonesians attending protests here were not harassed, detained or prosecuted on their return home.

THE Province
$ 0.2

Cops douse protesters with pepper spray



Full APEC [illegible]
Pages A4

■ Demonstrat
Gabby Resch
grimaces after
being hit wi
pepper spr

Staff photo
by Stuart Davis

Riotous sendoff

APEC '97

Cops say protesters to blame

Pepper spray used against crowd at UBC demonstration

By John Wawrow, Shane McCune and Don Hauka
Staff Reporters

Police defended their use of pepper spray yesterday after the University of B.C. was turned into a battleground for an estimated 3,000 anti-APEC demonstrators.

"If pepper spray was used, it's because (demonstrators) did not obey orders to disperse," said Const. Grant Learned. "Their actions were forcing us to move up to the next level (of restraint)."

Demonstrators, some of whom were temporarily blinded by the spray, disputed Learned's comments. "I was about 20 feet away from the barrier when someone grabbed me from behind and maced (sprayed) me," said Tracie Park. "I was just shocked. I just sat on the ground."

Another demonstrator was hit with pepper spray in the middle of Chancellor Road as police waded into the crowd to arrest anti-APEC spokesman Jonathan Oppenheim.

In all, 38 protesters were arrested and dozens more temporarily blinded by the spray. One person was treated in hospital.

The protest, among the largest in recent Vancouver history, was held as leaders of 18 Asia-Pacific nations, including Prime Minister Jean Chretien and U.S. President Bill Clinton, met at UBC's Museum of Anthropology.

Demonstrators, already angry over Monday's arrest of one of their organizers, Jaggi Singh, were enraged when police — saying they had a warrant — dragged away Oppenheim as he was addressing protesters through a loudspeaker.

"They're trying to incite us," said Rodney DeCroo, ex-chair of the Langara Student Union. Following a morning rally, demonstrators marched to barricades set up at the north end of the university's Main Mall.

More than 110 police officers, using their bicycles as a blockade, stood outside the heavily-barricaded security zone, while at least another 100 were visible inside the barriers.

Tensions boiled over when protesters crashed the barricades and attempted to scale the fence, at one point successfully pulling a part of it down.

Police rushed in, creating a frenzy when they shot pepper spray out of canisters the size of small fire extinguishers.

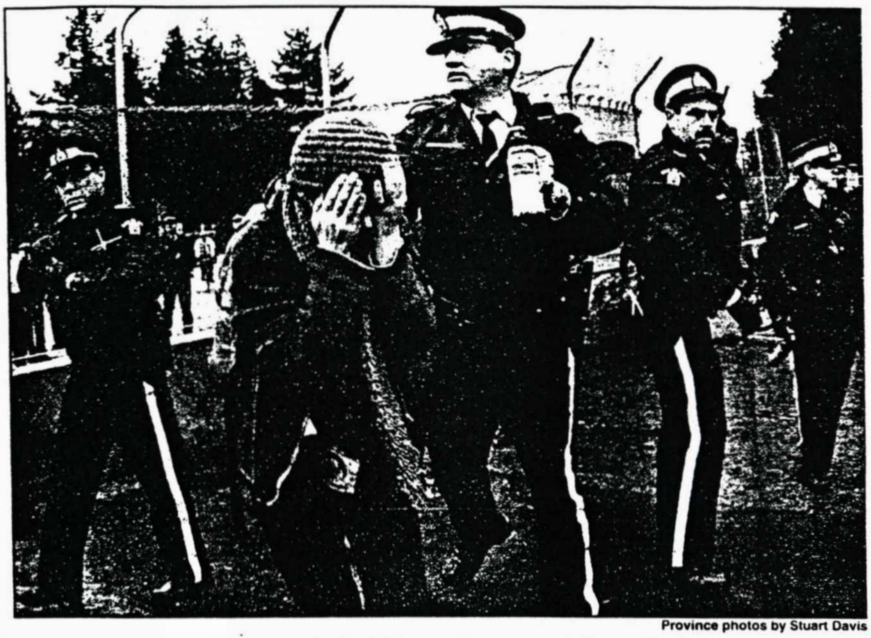
After a second round of spraying, protest organizers reached a quasi-truce with police to allow activists to hand themselves over voluntarily for arrest.

Later, Prime Minister Jean Chretien said he sympathized with student protesters because "I did that, too, when I was a student."

When a reporter asked about the use of pepper spray, Chretien replied: "This technique did not exist when I was a student — for me, I put pepper on my plate."

In downtown Vancouver, a two hour march last night by about 1,500 anti-APEC protesters passed without incident.

"There were no problems, just the usual disruptions to traffic," said Insp. Dave Boyd, standing amid dozens of bike-patrol officers blocking access to Hornby.



Province photos by Stuart Davis

A woman covers her eyes after being hit by pepper spray during anti-APEC protest at UBC.

Protesters try to pull down fence at UBC just before police moved in.

University officials made civil rights part of the deal

By Gordon Clark
Staff Reporter

UBC officials put civil rights on the table when they negotiated the use of their facilities for APEC with the federal government.

Under a licensing agreement struck between the university and Ottawa — which laid out which facilities would be used and when during the conference — University of B.C. negotiators had Ottawa guarantee in writing that:

- Students could protest APEC on campus.
- Student journalists would receive credentials to cover the meetings.
- Security would not be so tight that students couldn't get a glimpse of APEC leaders when they attended a lunch and meeting yesterday on campus.

"We did insist, and it was included, that students had the right to protest on other areas of the campus," UBC spokeswoman Paula Martin said yesterday. "The provision said there would be no interference.

The agreement — something like a short-term rental deal — cost Ottawa $1.

When police arrested fou student protesters on Saturda they cited the agreement as giv ing authority to clear the area

But Martin and Vancouve police spokeswoman Const Anne Drennan said yesterda the deal had nothing to do wit the arrests.

Secure zones at UBC an downtown are establishe under a treaty covering inter nationally protected persons they said.

Drennan said arrests wer made only when peop attempted to breach polic lines into secure areas.

The Province

Thursday, November 27, 1997

Police answer critics on degree of violence

By John Wawrow
Staff Reporter

After securing the APEC summit leaders, police spent yesterday attempting to re-secure their reputation in the face of criticism that they used excessive violence.

"They obviously haven't worked in Surrey or White Rock and Burnaby when we've had to put down near-riots," said RCMP Cpl. John Buis, responding to critics. "I've arrested more people on the weekend in White Rock than we arrested in total yesterday — and with a lot more force."

Criticism was raised after 49 people were arrested and dozens temporarily blinded by pepper spray during Tuesday's anti-APEC demonstration at the University of B.C. Police first used the spray when demonstrators tried to breach a security fence.

Buis defended the use of the spray, noting only one protester had to be treated and released from hospital.

"I don't understand a lot of the fuss. I guess it has to do with a variety of factors," he said. "But in the end analysis, what happened? The people protested. They got their message through. But their dedicated aim was the breach of the cordon.

"We had to prevent that. And how do we know which one's going to or which one isn't?"

RCMP introduced pepper spray to their arsenal five years ago. They use a mixture of 10-per-cent oleoresin capsicum — ground up pepper powder residue — and the rest an alcohol-based solution.

"It's a non-lethal, non-toxic method of control," Buis said.

Although pepper spray has been connected with numerous deaths in the United States, it's not been cited as the cause of any death in Canada.

Chris Rattenbury, who trains officers in the use of pepper spray at the B.C. Justice Institute academy, said he makes sure trainees know how to deal with people after they've been sprayed.

"We recommend that, when they're handcuffed, we try to transport them in a seated, upright position," he said.

Police elect to use pepper spray only after "lower levels" of force fail to work," said Rattenbury.

"The bottom line is if (an officer) . . . feels the best way to control them is with (pepper spray), then he's justified in using it . . ."

Donald Babick: President and publisher
Michael Cooke: Editor-in-Chief
Vivienne Sosnowski: Managing Editor
James McNulty: Editorial Page Editor

Our View

Member of the B.C. Press Council
Founded in 1898
Published by Pacific Press,
a division of Southam Inc.,
200 Granville Street, Ste. 1, Vancouver, B.C., V6C 3N3

APEC alert

NO DOUBT Prime Minister Jean Chretien meant to be funny with his remark about pepper being something he puts on his plate.

Instead he makes us wonder whether he really appreciates the serious human rights concerns raised by APEC protesters who confronted police and wound up with pepper spray in the face.

Jean Chretien and the APEC leaders passed up a marvelous opportunity

At the conference outset Chretien signalled that human rights might come up during the week-long event. Now he says "I don't think APEC will ever have human rights on its agenda."

Chretien and the 17 other leaders have passed up a marvelous opportunity. They're keen to impose fiscal responsibility on their members. The fact that moral accountability isn't part of the package makes us wonder whether APEC is ready to join the big leagues.

Certainly it was critical for APEC to address the financial turmoil now slamming Southeast Asia.

With many of the region's banks hanging in the balance, Chretien explained: "We have taken advantage of our meeting to focus not just on economic prospects of the region, but also on the currency and financial market instability of recent weeks."

Banking practices in southeast Asia are abominable. There are too many small banks, poorly regulated, subject to cronyism, and manipulated to make bad loans to industries that hardly deserve them.

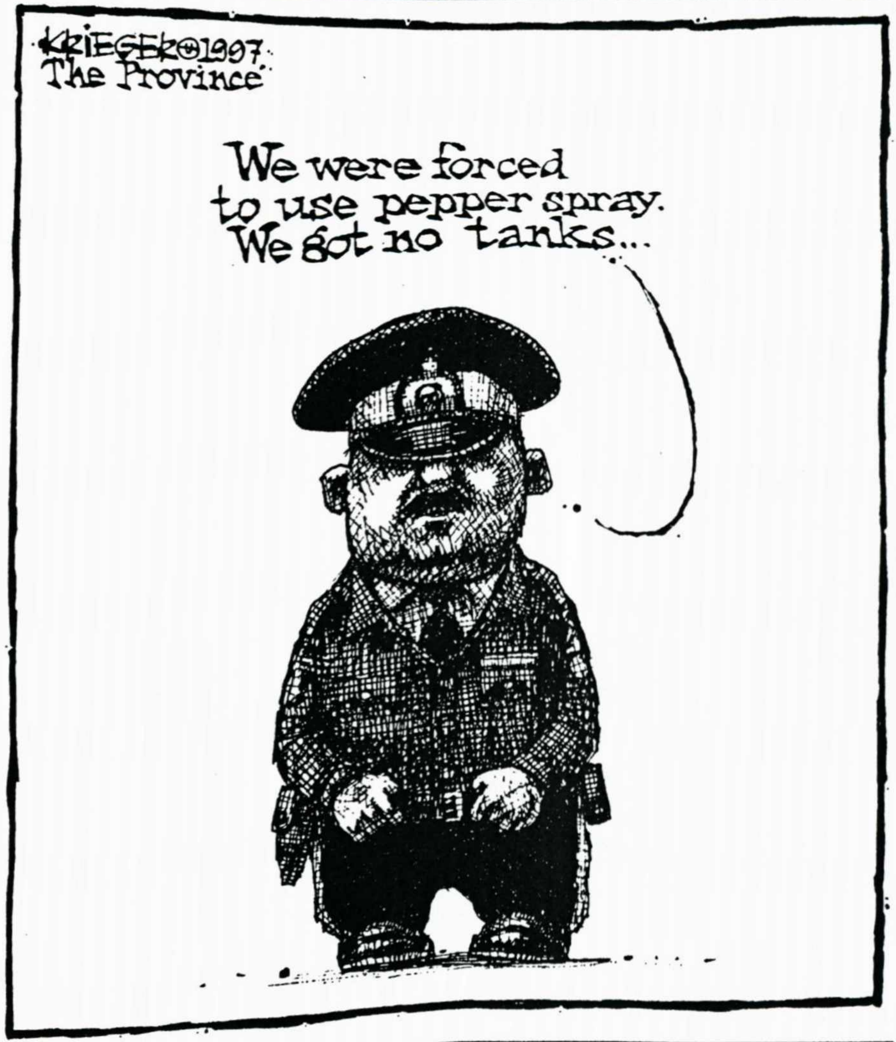
When Asia's economy was healthy, the impact wasn't as severe. But no longer. Asia is now in the same boat as Mexico was three years ago when its peso crisis forced the International Monetary Fund to step in with a bailout. Mexico mended its ways, and now enjoys healthy financial growth.

This bailout package comes with heavy restrictions: Better market regulation, freer trade, budget cuts, higher interest rates and economic restructuring are among the requirements imposed.

The APEC leaders have now shown themselves able to impose tough conditions where money is involved.

If only they had chosen to add human rights reform to the conditions for a financial bailout as well.

The fact that they didn't will only lend credence to critics' complaints that APEC is all about profits, not people.


KRIEGER©1997
The Province
We were forced to use pepper spray. We got no tanks...

APEC a mixed blessing at best

Barbara Yaffe

The fat lady has sung. The motorcades have left. The traffic barricades have been dismantled.

Federal Liberals had hoped, by arranging for Vancouver to host the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, they'd win points by highlighting their commitment to promote B.C. as Canada's Asia-Pacific gateway.

As Prime Minister Jean Chretien told me in a recent interview, Ottawa could have chosen Calgary. Never mind that Vancouver was the only logical choice for such a conference. Clearly, picking Vancouver was meant to help Liberal fortunes in a part of Canada that tends to suffer from Gritphobia.

So the feds kicked in $40 million to stage the summit; forecast $23 million in spinoff benefits for Vancouver's economy, and, for good measure, threw in a APEC legacy gift — $4 million to set up a Centre for Dialogue at Simon Fraser University.

Before darting back to Ottawa at dawn Wednesday, Chretien, by way of a PMO press release, declared "Canadians can be proud of what we have achieved as chair of APEC this year."

Is that so? I wonder how proud people here are.

Reform MP Keith Martin (Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca) says Chretien failed to exercise leadership at APEC. Human rights and a healthy economy go hand in hand; corruption increases business costs. Chretien refused to deal with that reality.

For most B.C. observers, this gathering was a mixed blessing at best. Some were uncomfortable about having repressive dictators on our soil and treating them to our finest hospitality.

We blocked off streets for them. Paid their expenses in Canada. Showed them deference. Retailers took a pasting because locals feared venturing downtown.

In return, what we got was disappointing insight into the attitudes of two of our own politicians. (Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy was an exception, stating APEC will become irrelevant if it doesn't deal with concerns of ordinary citizens.)

Vancouver Mayor Philip Owen chose to defend the city's gala dinner invitation to China's Jiang Zemin, a man who presides over a repressive regime. Owen asserted that human rights are preoccupations for Ottawa, not City Hall.

And Chretien, at a final news conference, remarked, "I don't think APEC will ever have human rights on its agenda."

He might have added that he regretted this, that he'd work to try to change it. He did not.

When asked about the pepper-spraying of young people who were protesting corruption and torture in Indonesia, Chretien said: "For me, pepper, I put it on my plate."

He might have said he regretted the altercation, that he understood the students' motivations, that Canada is a democracy where he'd like everyone to freely have their say. He did not.

Some observers were uncomfortable about having repressive dictators on our soil for the summit.

Chretien ought to put this thought on his plate: B.C. residents showed this week how much they care about their fellow citizens on the other side of the planet. What the students did, they did not out of mischief or maliciousness but out of caring for others and dedication to the democracy Canadians cherish. These weren't thugs, they were possibly tomorrow's leaders.

MP Svend Robinson (NDP—Burnaby-Douglas) rightly describes these protesters as "our sons and daughters. It's a sad day for democracy in Canada when people demonstrating for human rights are themselves sprayed with pepper."

He said Chretien's jocular comment "added insult to injury. It was literally sickening, disgusting."

The police are not to blame here; they were in an impossible situation — under orders to secure the area for the protection of the likes of Indonesia's Suharto.

But given that such high-security-risk leaders were attending, APEC organizers should have found a meeting site that would provide proper security without unduly imposing on Canadians, perhaps using choppers to fly the 18 heads of state to a secluded Gulf Island. It was up to the organizers to ensure Suharto's safety without suppressing the rights of freedom of expression of those students.

The Liberals hoped to enhance their popularity in B.C. with this international meeting. It remains unclear if this was achieved.

What is certain is the APEC event showed a couple of our most prominent politicians to be highly lacking in sensitivity.

❑

A block party will be held Sunday at Stornoway for some 40 of Preston Manning's neighbors.

Says a Reform official: "We want to show some Western hospitality and to make the point this isn't just the Mannings' home. Canadians own a piece of it."

EDITORIAL

THE VANCOUVER SUN, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1997

CANADA JOINS WORLD'S OLDEST PROFESSION

One: Canada invites a few friends and neighbours, including some sadistic, bloodthirsty dictators, over for dinner, drinks, and conversation.

Two: Canada disrupts the lives of local citizens and waives bylaws designed to protect her citizens so as to ensure the safety of and to give no offence to the delicate sensibilities of the sadistic, bloodthirsty dictators.

Three: Two weeks after Remembrance Day, student protests are met by riot police wielding high pressure hoses, pepper spray and various other weapons. Some students are arrested. Amateur stuff compared to some of the pros Canada serviced; nevertheless, Suharto and Jiang Zemin must have felt just that much more at home.

Four: The whole shindig was termed a success.

For such a young country, Canada seems very proficient at the world's oldest profession. On her next birthday, I'm giving her an economy-size bottle of extra-strength mouthwash.

Should I be requesting anonymity for the protection of my family and myself from government retaliation in the event this letter is published?

Or does Canada no longer need to keep up appearances once our illustrious guests have departed?

SERA KIRK
Vancouver

LETTERS

The Vancouver Sun welcomes letters to the editor. Letters, however transmitted, should be brief and must contain the full name and address of the writer and a daytime telephone number. We reserve the right to edit letters. Open letters to third parties will not be published. Letters cannot be returned.

Fax: **605-2522**.

E-mail:
sunletters@pacpress.southam.ca

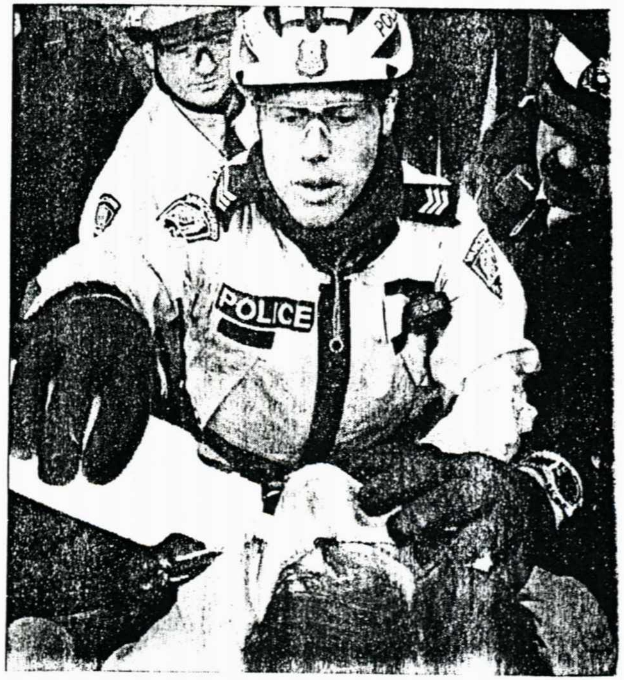
Post: Letters Editor,
The Vancouver Sun,
Suite 1-200 Granville St.,
Vancouver V6C 3N3.

Editorial department telephone:
605-2184

FORUM

Why our police are armed with pepper spray

It's easier and safer than other non-lethal weapons to use, the American experience shows. What follows are excerpts from a report published this year.



BILL KEAY/Vancouver S

TUESDAY, UNIVERSITY OF B.C.: A police officer washes out the eyes of a pepper-sprayed anti-APEC demonstrator.

Oleoresin capsicum, or OC, is a naturally occurring substance derived from the cayenne pepper plant; it is classified as an inflammatory agent. On contact with OC, the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose and throat immediately become inflamed and swollen. The symptomatic swelling produces involuntary eye closure due to dilating capillaries; nasal and sinus drainage; constricted airway; and temporary paralysis of the larynx, causing gagging, coughing, and shortness of breath. The extract of peppers causes the blood vessels to dilate and the blood to rush to the upper body; the skin appears inflamed, resembling a burn.

OC's inflammatory properties purportedly render the agent more effective than CN and CS (tear gas and super tear gas) on violent, intoxicated, drugged and mentally ill individuals. Moreover, the symptomatic eye closure and constriction of the respiratory tract explain why OC is so effective on animals. No special decontamination protocols are required for OC because it is biodegradable. Unlike CN and CS irritants, OC will not persist on clothing or affected areas.

... To date, OC has not caused any deaths.

Finally, OC use does not result in dermatitis, skin depigmentation, or burns.

CN and CS are still used by many law-enforcement agencies, especially for crowd control. Primarily because of the potential risk of injury and cross-contamination, as well as decontamination problems associated with their use, law-enforcement officials began to use OC as a less harmful, more dependable alternative. Although available since the mid '70s, OC was not widely used until recently.

Over-all, OC was very effective on the 194 occasions it was used. A total of 156 (90 per cent) of the 174 individuals sprayed were incapacitated enough to be effectively arrested. ...

Very few arrested-person injuries occurred .... Of the 174 spray incidents, only 14 (eight per cent) received any injuries and all of these were minor, requiring no hospital treatment. Staff were not able to gather pre-OC comparison data; however, it was hypothesized that if suspects were injured, complaints of force would be filed more often. The data collected during the study period indicated that such complaints were decreasing at a rate greater than that observed prior to the introduction of OC. It is reasonable to conclude that OC had a positive effect on reducing the number of suspect injuries.

Only 21 officers (11 per cent) reported receiving any injury. Most of these were minor and resulted in no lost work time. Although data from the pre-OC use period were not comparable and did not permit a complete before-and-after analysis, the relatively low level of injuries sustained by officers in the post-OC period suggests that OC use has the potential to reduce officer injuries in confrontational situations.

... Internal Affairs officers noted that, unlike the effect of impact weapons, the effects of OC are short-lived and nontraumatic; pepper spray thus reduces the likelihood that brutality or excessive force complaints would be lodged. In addition, sprayed individuals received aftercare from the officers who sprayed them, which may have obviated the need to complain.

Summary

Most police departments in the United States are concerned about officer and suspect safety. In recent years, this concern has focused on injuries to police officers and citizens during arrest confrontations. To meet this problem, departments have sought answers in technology involving less-than-lethal weapons. Aerosol pepper spray is one weapon from the LTL arsenal that effectively addresses the issue of officer/citizen injury.

Officers' Comments

The following comments were extracted from data-collection sheets completed by officers or from followup interviews:

"Wish we had had it a while ago."

"I think it's a great ... alternative to initial use of force."

"Definitely better than using a nightstick."

"The word is out (on the street) ... all people have to do is hear the Velcro and they comply pretty quickly."

(The officer who made this comment had actually pulled the OC from his holster at least 10 times, but had sprayed it only once.)

"Some subjects actually apologize after being sprayed."

A research team from the International Association of Chiefs of Police analys the Baltimore County police departmen use of pepper spray from July 1993 March 1994. The [illegible]-page report is post on the U.S. Justice Department's Office Justice Programs website.

January - February 1998
Volume 14, No. 1

THE ACTIVIST

ACT for Disarmament

Singing at the Women's Conference *(from left to right): Isabel Galhos, Dolly Ribeiro, Ceu Brites, Ines Almeida and Solana Soares*

Team Timor Exposes Canadian Complicity in Genocide

"Team Timor made our issue real for Canadians. We were like family, speaking our own language, singing and dancing in our own culture. It was a really amazing feeling to be reunited with other East Timorese," said Isabel Galhos. "I felt very happy inside," opined Abé Barreto Soares. "With Team Timor, I felt a great joy and a sense I could end my feelings of loneliness. I felt very motivated."

Isabel Galhos and Abé Barreto Soares are exiles in Canada.

Team Timor was organized to protest the presence in Canada of Indonesian military dictator General Suharto at the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation summit (APEC) held in Vancouver last November. "We wanted to bar Suharto from coming to Canada," she stated.

"Our name was a counter-campaign to Prime Minister Chrétien's Team Canada which made business deals with Indonesia. While Chrétien says he raised the issue of human rights, he made these business deals with no guarantees for them. We chose the title Team Timor to make a mockery of Team Canada," reported Soares.

"I was disappointed but not shocked by Canada's welcome of Suharto," reflected Galhos. "Governments do the same thing everywhere. The Canadian government did not represent its people. Chrétien and Team Canada did not influence Indonesia at all. Rather, Indonesia obviously influences Canada."

Galhos believes that "Canadians' rights are not so freely held anymore because their

dictators. Other basic rights also are being shut down like education, health and women's shelters. Refugees cannot get into Canada without lots of money."

"Team Timor made a huge difference," continued Galhos. "After three years in Canada working for my people's freedom, it was important for me that other Timorese told Canadians the stories of suffering that I have been talking about."

This opportunity took place in Ottawa on November 12 and in Vancouver on November 17 at People's Tribunals organized by the *East Timor Alert Network (ETAN)*.

The Tribunal in Ottawa represented the largest-ever gathering of the East Timorese in Canada and received very good media coverage.

The fifteen members of Team Timor consisted of thirteen exiled East Timorese and two Indonesian dissidents. East Timorese here from Portugal included Maria Solana Soares, Tomas Alfredo Gandara, Aviano Faria, Alfredo Rodrigues, Joao Antonio Dias, Libanio de Fadiina Soares and Roberto Seixas Miranda Jeronimo. Australian exiles Josephina Ribeiro, Ceu Brites and Ines Almeida attended as did José Antonio Amorim Dias from the Netherlands.

"The People's Tribunal was a mock trial but the stories were true," insisted Isabel. Included in these stories was Josephina Ribeiro's testimony of being forcibly injected with Depo Provera, a birth control agent, because "Suharto hopes to eliminate us by stopping us from having baby." Roberto Jeronimo was tortured with beatings, electrical shocks to his genitals, and having his fingernails ripped out in 1983. Alfredo Rodrigues had his toes crushed by Indonesian soldiers, was whipped and had cigarettes put out on his back. Joao Antonio Dias was forced to assist Indonesian troops discarding the bodies of demonstrators shot at the Santa Cruz cemetery at the Dili military hospital where he worked in the lab. His eye-witness account was horrifying: "The survivors were calling out for their mothers, they were calling out for help. The military response was to stab them with daggers and with rifle butts, and to smash their heads against the rocks. I witnessed this killing but I could not do anything. I felt helpless."

The East Timorese were especially pleased that George Aditjondro, a former Indonesian professor of sociology and anthropology now lecturing at Australia's Newcastle University, and Jasfiq Hadjar were able to join Team Timor. Hadjar is a political activist with the Dutch-based *Movement of Indonesians Abroad for Human Rights and Democracy.*

"The Indonesian exiles exposed the atrocities committed by Suharto's regime since 1965. It proved that we Timorese are not making up stories. We respect and admire their courage. It is a good strategy for us to work together versus a common enemy," said Soares. "Support is growing in Indonesia, particularly since the 1991 Santa Cruz cemetery massacre. Our support comes from Indonesian students, workers and alternative media reps who are working with East Timorese students in Indonesia."

At the protests to APEC in Vancouver, Team Timor took a low profile while supporting the students' initiative and strong resistance.

"The people were so together with demonstration after demonstration," remarked Galhos.

"I was impressed by the students and expect these protests will continue in the future," said Soares. "It was an insult that Suharto was in Vancouver and students were not allowed to protest. Students made a big impact on the mobilization of interest across the country. Universities are a strong watch-dog in society."

Galhos was shocked by the police's use of pepper spray to subdue anti-APEC protestors. "I had told the other East Timorese that it was safe to protest in Canada. They could have been bullets. It starts with pepper spray, then what? Canada obviously does not want the world to see opposition to its policies."

Soares was saddened by Chrétien's joke that when he was a student, the only pepper he had was on his plate. Soares believes Chrétien "made a fool of himself by thinking he was saying something funny."

It was very important to Abé and Isabel that they could share experiences of exile life with so many other East Timorese.

"We discussed what we will bring back to East Timor when it is free like education, the development of culture, and how we can learn from other cultures," said Galhos excitedly. "What kind of leadership will we exiles return with? What does self-determination mean? How will we respect each person's rights?"

In March 1998, the first-ever Congress for East Timor will further explore these questions in Lisbon, Portugal.

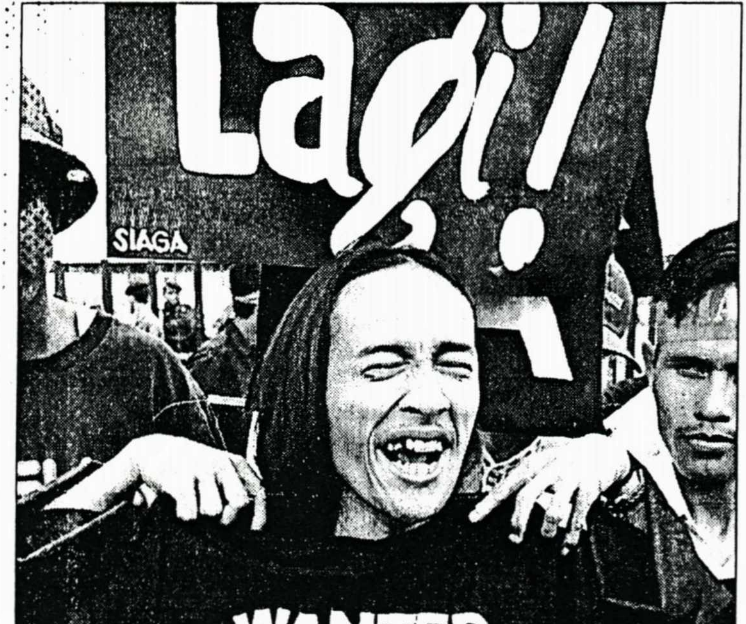
"Please help our cause because we feel we have already won the struggle," said Galhos. "There are now two generations of East Timorese who have not accepted Indonesian rule."

(see page 4 for the Peoples Tribunal' communique)

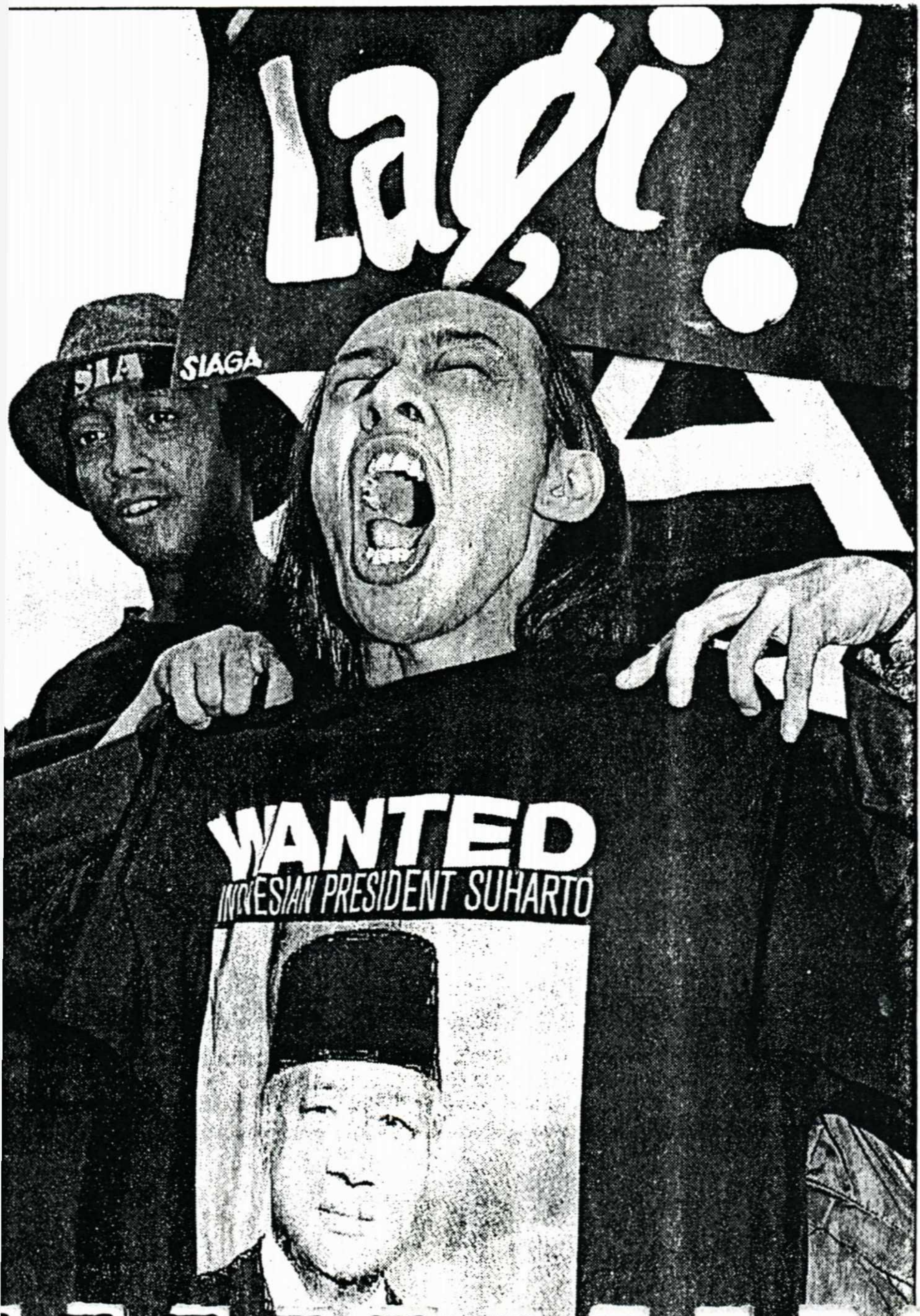
Funds are urgently needed
by the
East Timor Alert Network.

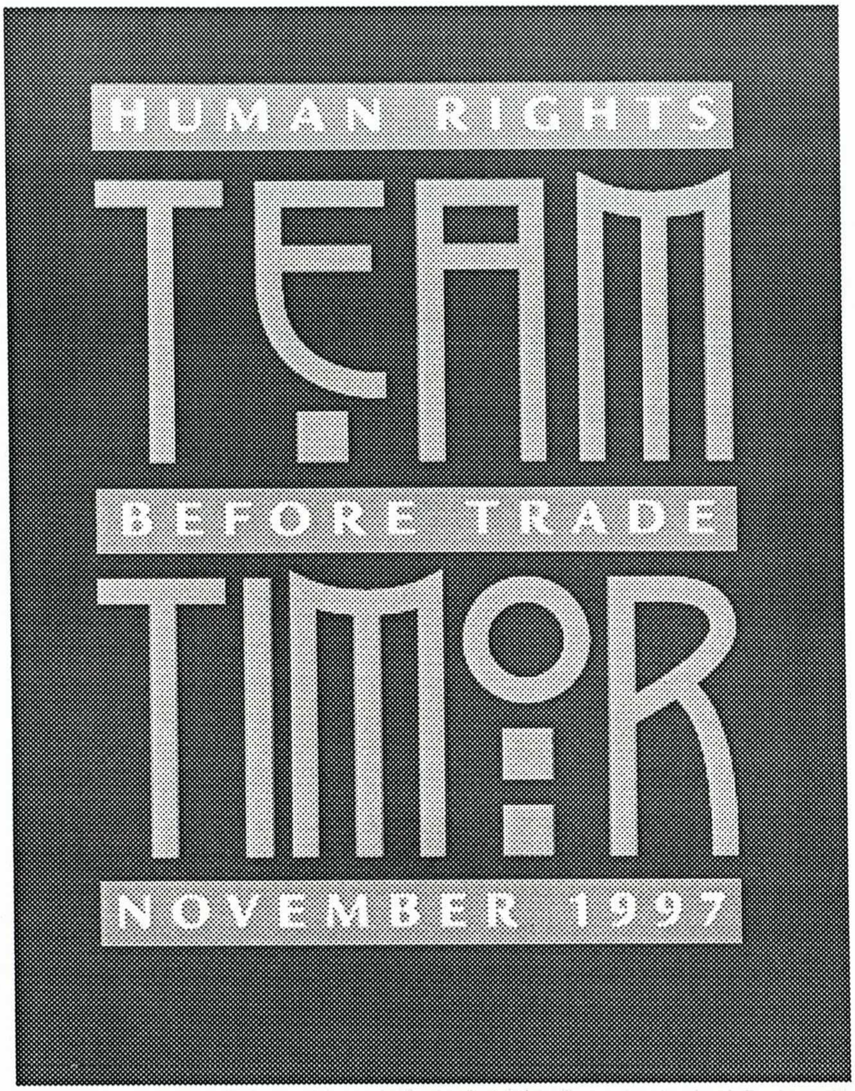
Plese make a generous
contribution for a
free East Timor.

ETAN, PO Box 562
Stn. P, Toronto, ON M5S 2T1
tel: (416) 531-5850


Lagi!
SIAGA
WANTED
INDONESIAN PRESIDENT SUHARTO
FOR CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY
GENOCIDE IN EAST TIMOR
MASS KILLINGS IN INDONESIA

• *Een demonstrant houdt een T-shirt op met de tekst 'Gezocht: de Indonesische president Soeharto wegens misdaden tegen de menselijkheid'. Even later zou de politie het kledingstuk uit zijn vingers grissen.* FOTO: WIM HOFLAND


Lagi!
SIA
SIAGA
WANTED
INDONESIAN PRESIDENT SUHARTO


HUMAN RIGHTS
TEAM
BEFORE TRADE
TIMOR
NOVEMBER 1997

Biographies

sabel Galhos

Bella Galhos is one of only three East Timorese who have escaped to Canada. She was born in Dili, the capital of East Timor, on November 1972. She was three years old when Indonesia ıvaded her country on December 7, 1975. In January 6, the Indonesian military entered her home and ed her two young brothers, because they were cry ng out in hunger. Her aunt was raped to death after g forced to witness the brutal murder of her two dren and husband.

Bella grew up under the illegal Indonesian occupa , and witnessed much of what has been called the st genocide, per capita, since the Holocaust.

She remembers the Indonesian military coming to school and asking all the young women to line up, all the men to leave.

“They told us we needed to be injected to stay lthy. I was frightened, I didn’t trust them. Five of hem had to hold me down, and they had a very hard me. Then they came to my home the same week and ected me again.”

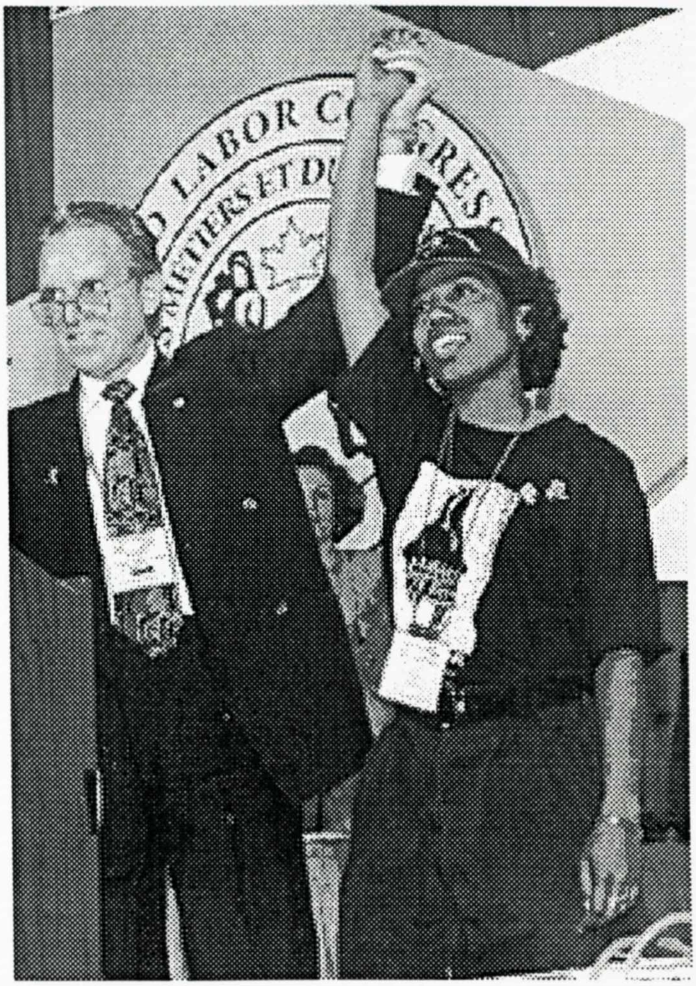
She later learned that she and her friends were i ected with Depo Provera. Forced birth control has p yed a big role in the military’s attempt to wipe out the entire Timorese population.

Bella also recalls living under a constant fear of being raped. “Women in East Timor are raped all the time by the military. They just come into your home, and force you.”

For three years she l d a double life, helping the derground sistance while earing an army iform. She later saw this as a way to ape.

Bella is one of a new generation of Timorese who are more determined than ever to resist the occupation. She began to work with the underground resistance in 1989, encouraging people to join, and helping to organize demonstrations. In 1991, she became an official member of the clandestine movement, and convinced other women to join.

In 1991, Bella helped organize a peaceful demonstration in Dili after the Indonesian military killed other of her friends. Indonesian soldiers fired on e protesters, killing at least 271 and wounding 382. Bella managed to run to freedom, helping her preg nt aunt to safety. For three days afterward, the massacre continued, as the military rounded up all of those who had taken part in the demonstration. This is now known as the Dili Massacre.



To protect herself and her family, Bella had to pretend to be loyal to the Indonesian government, and joined the Indonesian military youth corps. For three years she lived a double life, helping the underground resistance while wearing an army uniform. She later saw this as a way to escape.

In 1994, and after a month of interrogation and training, the Indonesian government selected her to represent them in the Canada World Youth program.

They trained her to speak on behalf of the Indonesian government to the media in Canada. She was to inform Canadians that the people of East Timor are glad to be integrated into Indonesia. Her family was forced to sign a statement of responsibility for her actions in Canada. But Bella defected in October 1994, putting her uniform in a box and sending it back to the Embassy of Indonesia in Ottawa.

Since then, Bella has been perfecting her English and touring Canada speaking out for her country’s freedom. Once her country is free, Bella wants to return and set up a centre where women learn to play a powerful role in rebuilding their country.

bé Barreto Soares

Abé Barreto Soares is one of only three East Timorese living in exile in Canada. When the Indonesian military invaded East Timor on 7 ecember 1975 Abé' was 9 years old. He and his family id not flee to the jungle to avoid the military nslaught but chose to surrender to the Indonesian ilitary.

In 1976, like other Timorese children, he started rimary school under the new Indonesian education ystem. Indonesian authorities told him "Indonesian resence in East Timor is to liberate East Timor from olonialism and communism. Unity with Indonesia is major victory.....".

Abé finished high school in 1985. He got a local overnment scholarship to study in Java. Before he eft for Java Abé' had to take a 'loyalty' test conducted y the Indonesian military. Abé' did what he had to to ass the test, although, he never forgot the horrors Indonesia had levied on his homeland.

> Indonesian authorities told him "Indonesian presence in East Timor is to liberate East Timor from colonialism and communism. Unity with Indonesia is a major victory..."

Abé studied English since he was fond of English poetry. He developed his writing skills in Indonesian. At the same time, he kept asking himself, "For whose sake am I studying? Is it for a future independent East Timor or for the Republic of Indonesia?"

In 1990, two years after RENETIL (the underground East Timorese student movement) was founded, one of its militant members persuaded Abé to join. At first he refused, but Abé tried to convince RENETIL he supported the movement. Some RENETIL members were skeptical and suspicious of him.

In 1991 Abé got involved in Canadian Crossroads International (CCI) cultural exchange program. While involved in his cultural program in Java, Abé' began writing poetry about East Timor's struggle for freedom.

Abé used university connections to get publications about international support for the independence struggle of East Timor.

He shared the information with the members of RENETIL. They began to trust him. All this convinced Abé to be more serious about the struggle of East Timor.

Crossroads brought Abé to Canada as an Indonesian participant in September 1991. The Indonesian CCI committee expected him to tell Canadians about the true nature of the situation in East Timor very diplomatically, then return.

But on November 12, 1991 the Santa Cruz Cemetery massacre took place in East Timorese capital, Dili.Hundreds of East Timorese young people were killed by the Indonesian troops. Many of Abé's RENETIL friends were arrested a week after the massacre when they protested against the invasion and the massacre in Jakarta, Indonesia's capital city.

Two months after the massacre, Abé sought political asylum in Canada because he fear for his safety if he were to return to Indonesia. It was the most difficult decision of his life.

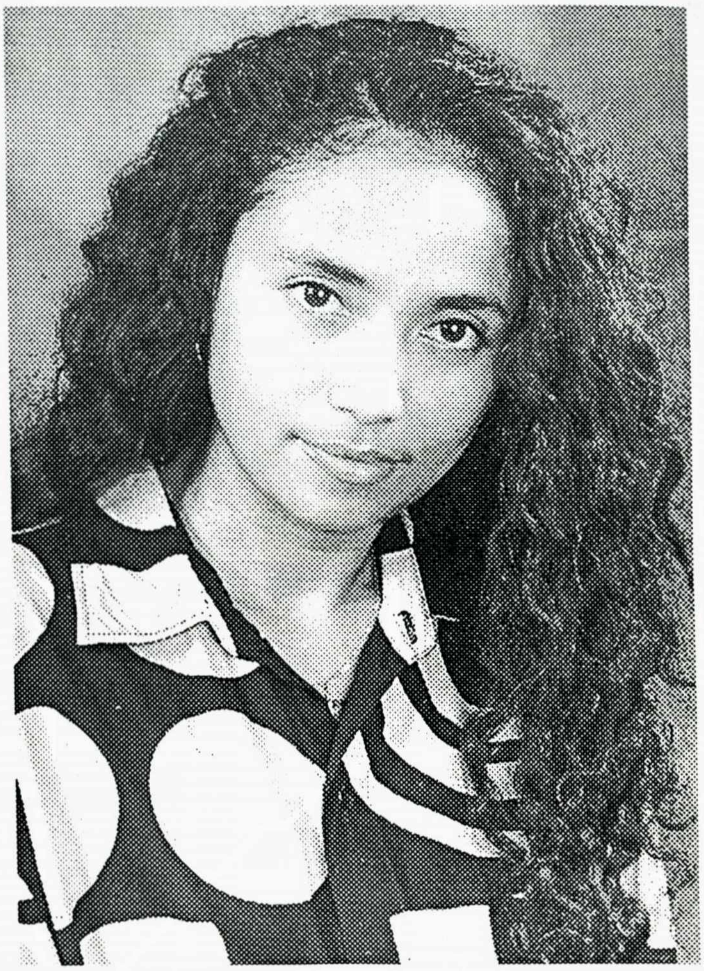
He obtained refugee status in 1992, and started campaigning for the freedom in East Timor. He has been the Canadian representative of the CNRM, the East Timorese Resistance Movement, ever since.

In 1993, with Canadian musician friend, Aloz MacDonald, he founded the musical group Abé ho Aloz!. The pair write, record and perform songs for East Timor in four languages (Tetum, Portuguese, Indonesian and English).

They have performed overseas and across Canada and together with international artists, they released a charity recording "20 Years of Resistance to Genocide in East Timor".

Abé continues to compose poetry and does some literary translation work of African and Latin American contemporary writings into Indonesian.

Josefina Ribeiro



Josefina Ribeiro was born in East Timor, on March 26, 1972. She was three years old when Indonesia invaded.

“I didn't remember what was happening in 1975, but the story of our suffering people and the tragedy of my country has stayed alive with my generation,” she said.

East Timorese not only face physical genocide but also cultural genocide, she said. “I was brought up under military occupation and I have seen and experienced what genocide really means.”

Josefina says the situation for young Timorese is particularly difficult for women.

To keep the East Timorese population from growing, the Indonesian authorities inject Timorese women with depo-provera against their will. Women are often injected several times over a short period and are often told the needle is a vaccination against disease.

“I still remember that day freshly as if it were yesterday,” Josefina said. “They came to class. All my male classmates were asked to leave the room. All the women were asked to line up, so they could give the injection.”

Josefina said the Indonesians even inject married women.

Josefina's Indonesian teacher also sexually abused her. “This is a story of many Timorese women and what they go through in everyday life.”

> I still remember that day freshly as if it were yesterday. They came to class. All my male classmates were asked to leave the room. All the women were asked to line up, so they could give the injection.

Josefina survived the Dili massacre, of November 12, 1991. She saw the Indonesian military kill family and friends.

The demonstration was organized by Timorese youth to protest the military's killing of Sebastiao Gomes two weeks earlier.

“As a new generation of Sebastiao's age, we wanted to commemorate his death by participating a peaceful funeral prosession,” she said.

“However, Indonesian military didn't want this to happen, so as soon as we arrived at the Santa Cruz cemetary, the military opened fire on us,” she said.

After the massacre, she feared for her life, because soldiers had scoured the city for people who had escaped. “So many young people had been taken from their homes and never seen again,” Josefina said.

She started looking for ways to leave. “Dili wasn't safe for young people anymore. Many were hunted, tortured, jailed, and disappeared forever,” she said.

She took an english course in preparation for leaving.

In 1995, family members in Australia helped get her out of East Timor. She joined about 2,000 East Timorese now living in Australia.

But she's not sure if she will be able to stay. The Australian government wants to deport the East Timorese because they claim they are not ‘real refugees’.

“Since I have been in Australia, I have started a new life. I continue to work for a free East Timor. I would love to go back soon to a free East Timor and my family,” she said.

ibânio de Fátima oares

Libânio de Fátima Soares was born in Dili on October 21 1973. He is the oldest of four children and the son of an elementary school eacher.

His family moved to Oecussi on the eastern part of he island to avoid the turmoil from the civil war. hey decided to stay as the Indonesian invasion oomed.

"My parents, my brothers and sisters didn't escape o the jungle like many people, though some of my elatives did," he said. "Many people lost everything in he exodus from Dili. The savagery of the Indonesian nilitary and its illegal occupation killed whole famiies."

Indonesian soldiers arrested Libânio's father in 1975. Libânio didn't see him for a year.

"His experience in jail was bitter and painful, but he would talk about it to me," he said. "He told me once, one day when he was eating suddenly a soldier asked him some questions. My father didn't respond. The soldier became enraged and he beat my father without pity until this blood spurted over the food. The soldier forced him to eat the food."

> The sound of the guns and the cries for help from the young boys and girls who were killed scared me a lot. I managed to escape. I was so panicked I did not know where to go.

Libânio joined the student underground resistance like many of his friends.

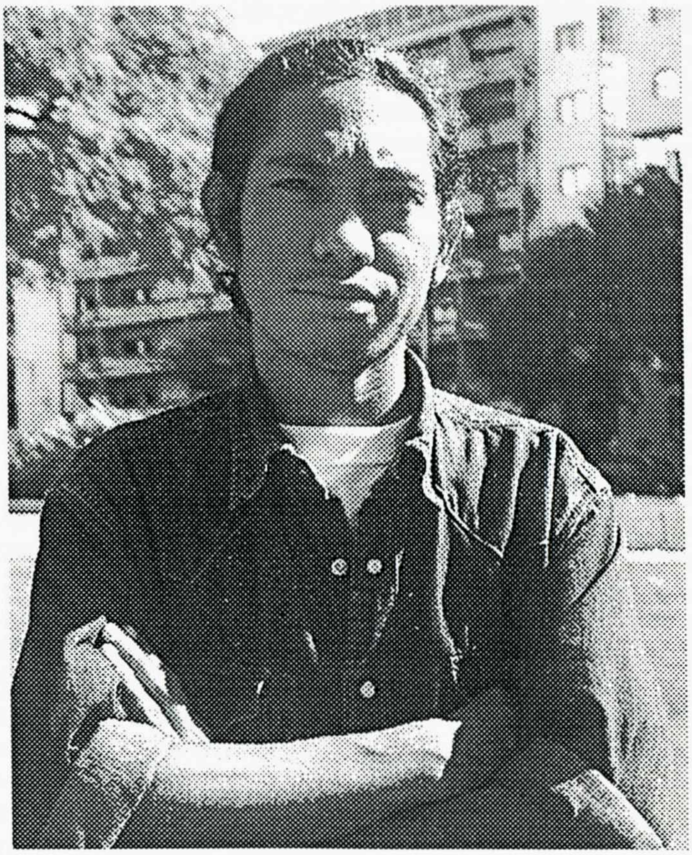
"I saw injustice, torture, intimidation, rape, and murder," he said. "One thing that was always in my mind: are the Indonesians doing to us what the Dutch did to them?"

Libânio is a survivor of the 1991 Dili massacre.

"The sound of the guns and the cries for help from the young boys and girls who were killed scared me a lot," he said. "I managed to escape. I was so panicked I did not know where to go. Eventually, I sought refuge at the houses of people living nearby."

Libânio left East Timor to study Pharmacy in East Java, Indonesia in August 1996.

"The idea of seeking refuge never came to my mind when I first arrived in Java," he said. "But I was really concerned with the political situation back in East Timor. I discussed the possibility of seeking refuge at foreign embassies with my fellow Timorese friends."



He and seven other East Timorese took refuge at the French embassy on March 3, 1997. They were allowed to leave for Portugal after several days of negotiating with the embassy officials.

"The human rights abuses in East Timor cannot be separated from the struggle of the East Timorese for self determination," he said. "We the Timorese will continue to suffer as long as there is no solution for the problem. I appeal to the international community to put pressure on Indonesian government to end the occupation."

a Solana Soares

ria Solana da Conceição Soares, was born
in Dili, East Timor, on October 2, 1966.
She is now one of two thousand East
efugees living in Portugal. She was eight
when the Indonesian military Invaded East

embers being awoken early on December 7,
the sound of bombs falling on Dili.
f her warned us about the what was going
id. "We were not allowed to go out, because
itary were everywhere. To protect ourselves
fire we were ordered to hide under the

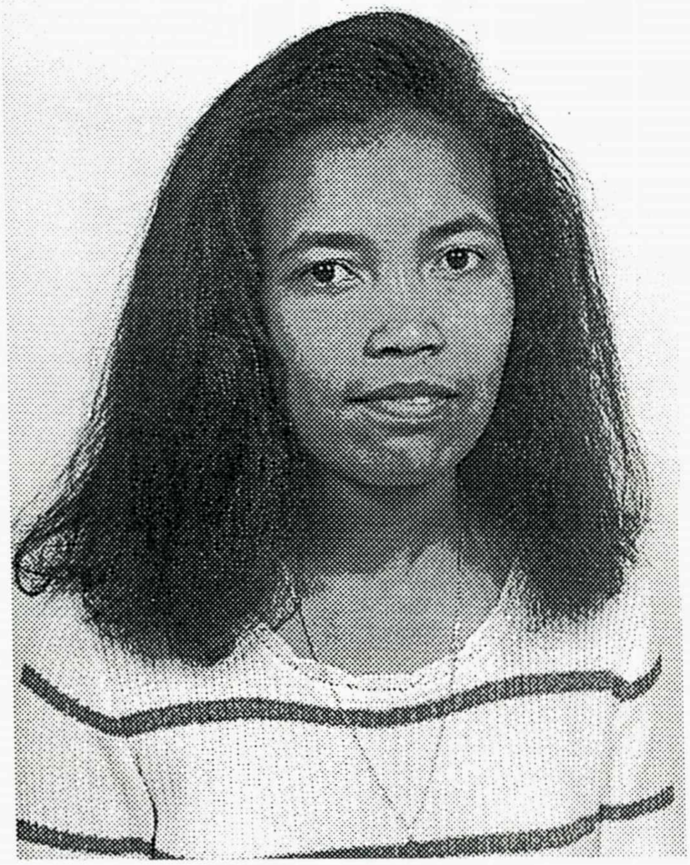
na's father was a member of FRETILIN, the
arty which had declared independence from
just before Indonesia invaded. The
sian army came looking for anyone involved in
endence movements.
st of my family had to escape to the moun-
she said. "Some were killed, some died of
illness in the mountains. Others disap-
or died in prison."
's father was jailed for two years. Her mother
lone with six children and no support. "She
mendous," Solana said. "She faced a great deal
ng with greater patience."
ndonesian military took advantage of my
r. But still she fought them."

ember that
n I brought
her food. They
allowed him
sh or give him a
had been
ed in the face so
ouldn't
nize his face.

Solana's father was severely tortured in prison.

"He still suffers from the pain of his torture," Solana said. "I still remember that day, when I brought my father food. They wouldn't allowed him to wash or give him a bed. He had been punched in the face so often I couldn't recognize his face. There were other prisoners – including women – in my father's cell."

Solana said the women were sexually abused, burnt
garettes, given electric shocks. "Some of them
forced to have Indonesian soldiers' babies."
a said the island itself has become a prison
er people.
people are being cut off from the rest of the



world," she said. "We have no freedom of association and we are forced to cover up our identity and pretend to be Indonesian."

"We feel like strangers in our own land."

Solana went to a school run by the Catholic church. It meant she avoided much of the indoctrination, but she says "the students were systematically targets of intimidation by the Indonesian military."

She finished high school in 1987 and got a job with the Indonesian government's agriculture department. Her family was still the subject of harassment, threats and intimidation from the Indonesian authorities.

"My father was being followed and interrogated so many times by the military, he felt he wasn't safe."

In 1988 her family applied to International Red Cross for protection and help leaving East Timor.

On May 3, 1989 Solana and her family left East Timor for Portugal.

"It was very hard for each of us to leave our country and to say good bye to our family members."

Solana hopes her family can go back to a free East Timor some day soon.

ão António Dias

o António Dias was born in 1968. Until ecember 1993 he worked as analyst in the labora- ry at the military hospital in Dili.

was working on 12th November 1991 when iesian soldiers opened fire on peaceful demon- rs at the Santa Cruz cemetery in Dili.

er the massacre, João saw many of the dead and ded arrive at the military hospital in 18 trucks. ers also took wounded people from the civilian ital and brought them to the military hospital. hen the military hospital morgue became full the bodies of the victims — some of whom were live — soldiers started throwing bodies onto the da and even on the ground in front of the ue. The trucks kept arriving with more.

hey drove right over the ones that were on the nd," João said. "Some of the wounded moved arms and legs to show they were still alive, but rucks did not stop."

s a worker in the military hospital, I saw all this ening, but could do nothing about it, as the slightest reaction on my part would have exposed me to the same fate," he said.

trucks drove right the wounded that on the ground," said. "Some of the nded moved their s and legs to show were still alive, but trucks did not stop.

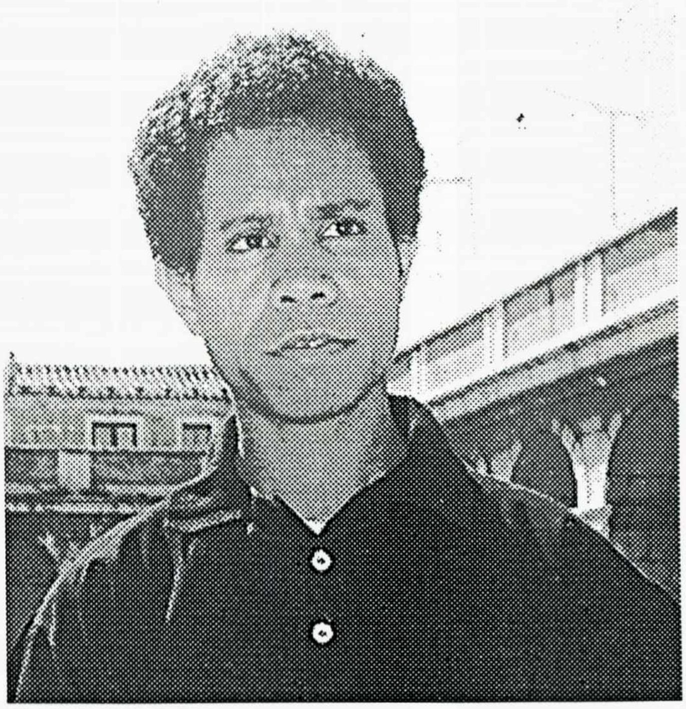
João said soldiers wanted a quick way to kill the wounded and get rid of the bodies.

"At first, they asked the hospital laboratory for sulphuric acid injections, but their apprehension about the noise from the victims' cries made them abandon the idea," he said.

he military finally settled on pills taken from the itary Services' Health Centre (DENKES). Soldiers nurses started giving two pills and a glass of er to each wounded person.

After taking these pills, the wounded started to se their strength and their breathing became weak- João said. "I know the names of five of the people distributed the pills: two soldiers, whose names re Parnabas and Nyoman, one civilian auxiliary O) called Chico Araújo, João Kota and Tri Agus, h nurses."

fter a while, the soldiers returned to check ether they were dead. They killed anyone who was



still alive by crushing their skulls with huge stones.

A large number of Indonesian soldiers had assembled there. They stopped the civilians from going anywhere near the hospital.

"To hide my emotions and revulsion, I had to go into the toilet, and there I dried my tears," he said. "When I came out, they were undressing the bodies, so that anything that might help to identify them could be burned. They loaded the bodies into the trucks, but I do not know where they were taken."

The military hospital sent João to Jakarta on December 17, 1993 to take a computer course. But he never came back.

In Jakarta he bought a fake passport from an Indonesian immigration officer. He then bought a ticket to Malaysia and eventually flew to Lisbon.

Six years after the massacre at Santa Cruz, the situation is still tense, and freedom for the East Timorese is non-existent.

The head of a family who wishes to have more than four visitors in his home must inform the military beforehand, otherwise, he would be arrested, which is always accompanied by physical and/or psychological torture.

In schools, pupils cannot talk about politics. Some of the teachers are agents for Indonesian intelligence services, and they encourage political conversations to detect those who most strongly oppose Indonesia.

Even Catholic priests are kept under surveillance while they carry out their religious duties. They have to obtain authorisation for any pastoral activity, such as celebration of mass and processions.

nes Almeida

nes came to Australia as a refugee thinking she would be able to return East Timor after three weeks. She was led to believe that everything ld soon be “back to normal” in East Timor. Those ree weeks became 22 years.

“Living in exile and growing up as a refugee has n a painful experience,” Ines said. “We felt unwelome by the Australian society, especially in school. ple kept telling us ‘go back to your home’. We realy ant to do that, but we can’t.”

Ines blames the Indonesian government and the tralian government – one of Indonesia’s major ding partners and political allies for the continued llegal occupation of her homeland.

nes realized that she would have to work to get her untry back because neither Australia nor Portugal were going to do it.

“I grew up as an exile but with the conviction that the hope to return has to become a reality,” she said.

“With many of my countrymen and women arrivi in Australia, Canada and Portugal to join us in this painful road of diplomatic front, my conviction is that we will get our homeland back, sooner rather t n later,” she said.

“Everyday, I hear the pain and suffering of my peop in East Timor due to the Indonesian occupation,” s e said. “The cry for freedom of my people forces me to be active and to work as much as I can to cont ibute to the freedom and peace of my people.”

> Everyday, I hear the pain d suffering of my people in East Timor e to the Indonesian cupation. The cry for freedom of my people rce me to be active and work as much as I can contribute to the eedom and peace of my people.

Ines has been involved in the international campaign to free East Timor. She attended attended the United Nations Decade for Women in Nairobi, Kenya in 1995.

She has spoken to solidarity groups, schools and universities, and participated in international campaigns and workshops.

In Australia she organizes demonstrations, gives media interviews, speaks in public forums and disseminates information in Australia and in the Asia-Pacific region in order to maintain and build solidarity.

“I’ve learned that women not only have to face the general political environment which often tends to be oppressive, but also we face the political culture of our community where women are not suppose to talk politics, let alone be active internationally. So, the struggle is indeed on every front.”

Céu Brites

Céu Brites was born in East Timor, on 29 July 1962. She arrived in Darwin Australia in Late 1975. Together with her family, she was transorted to Darwin as a refugee in a Norwegian cargo hip to escape the civil war between UDT and Fretilin. he thought the trip to Darwin would only be for a ouple of weeks and that she and her family would eturn after the civil war was over.

However, in the meantime, the Indonesian military nvaded Dili, the capital of East Timor, bringing more uncertainty into her future. Gradually, Céu and her family started to see that there was not going to be an early end because the Indonesian military had just nvaded.

Although, in Darwin and later Sydney, Australia, at that time (1975-76) there was no news because of media block in Australia regarding the situation in East Timor, Céu and her colleagues, like Ines Almeida, tried hard to reach out to those in Timor and those working for the resistance to learn about the situation. Like other youngsters, Céu started to see that they had to be active if they wished to regain their homeland from the Indonesian occupation.

Many members of her family stayed behind, some in the bush fighting against the Indonesian troops, others stayed in the village, literally held prisoners of the Indonesian military.

Céu's mother was in the bush with the guerillas. One of her older brothers was a guerilla fighter. Both were captured in late 1978. Her mother, old and sick, managed to get out and reach Australia with the help of the International Red Cross. Her brother was not so lucky. After he was captured, the Indonesian military killed him.

Her mother, old and sick, managed to get out and reach Australia with the help of the International Red Cross. Her brother was not so lucky. After he was captured, the Indonesian military killed him.

Céu Brites has also lost nephews and nieces in this war. The younger generation, just like her in the late seventies, start to see that they also must fight to regain their homeland. The youth struggle under difficult circumstances and many have died, disappeared and been killed. Amongst them there are some of Céu's own relatives.

Céu's activities include campaigns in the Asia-Pacific region. She works with other colleagues to disseminate information and speak to conferences and workshops. Her work focuses also on women's issues, self-determination and human rights. She is a board member of the Timorese Australia-based NGO East Timor Relief Association (ETRA) and also of NFIP (Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific).

She took part the Beijing International Conference on Women and Development, Consultation on Gender and development focusing on violence against refugee women in Asia and Pacific (Bangkok, September 1997), and she also works for the Pacific Women's Group called "Omomo Pacific".

She also works with the East Timor Information & Documentation Centre which publishes the monthly English newsletter Matebian News.

Céu also works for the Timorese radio program "Radio Timoroan," an hourly program aired once a week for the Timorese community in New South Wales, Australia, in Tetum.

ás Alfredo Gandara

years Tomás Alfredo Gandara was known Tomy Abdul Kahman. Baptized as Catholic, as raised as a Muslim. Tomás' parents were of FRETILIN, the political party that East Timor's independence from Portugal, e Indonesia invaded in 1975.

une 1979, when Tomás was two, Indonesian arrested and killed Tomás' parents in Los Timor.

ough I was young, I still remember hearing in pain, screaming," he said. "I remember hear- und of gunfire and I remember hearing exploding and the drones of helicopters flying d. I also have a clear recollection of my body red with flies."

soldiers took him and his five year old sister n orphanage at an Indonesian-run protes- h with a dozen other East Timorese infants re also thought to have parents who support- LIN.

ld have had a younger sibling as well my mother was pregnant when she was más adds.

At the orphanage, an Indonesian official named Djatrik, who was sent to East Timor to learn Tetun, decided he wanted to adopt Tomás and his sister. Djatrik and a local official drew up the so-called adoption papers and he took the two to Jakarta.

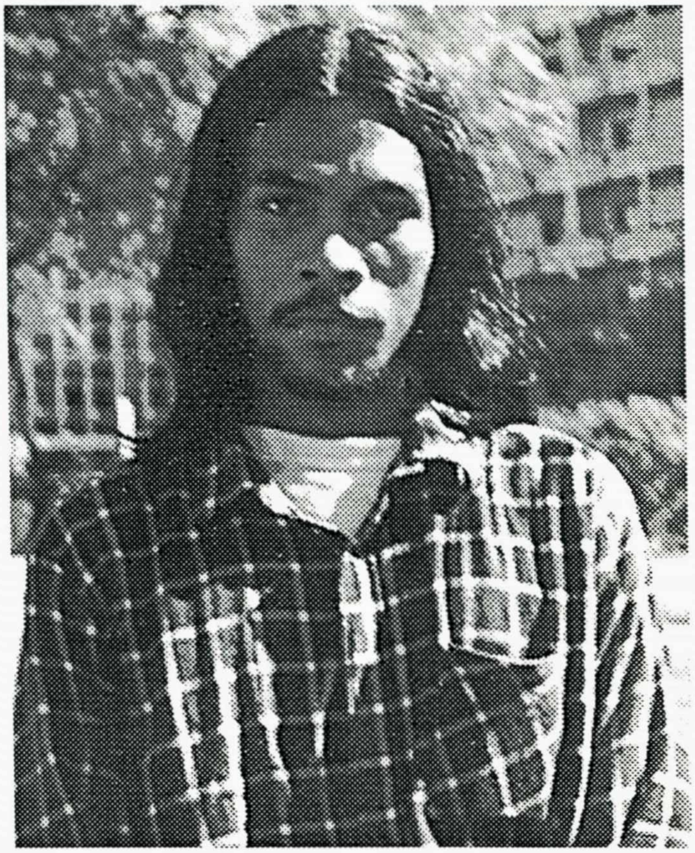
But Djatrik's wife wasn't as keen on the two Timorese. "His wife began to dislike us and wanted to get rid of us," d. "So one night, they dumped us both. They me in a ditch about 200 metres from their and dumped my sister on the doorstep of a 's orphanage. The two of us became separated n't see my sister again for fifteen years."

was bounced
everal
homes where
used,
as a servant
sold for
illion rupiahs.

nás was bounced between several foster homes was abused, treated as a servant and even wo million rupiahs.

nás ran away from his last home and spent ear on the streets, selling cigarettes and street corners.

as often kicked out of places, beaten up or p during police raids," he said. "Then I went back to my foster home after a while, I ran away again.



When he ran away he travelled all around Java. "I made many friends, in all parts of Java, I got involved in many demonstrations against the police and also in strikes."

Eventually he went to high school where he even met East Timorese and heard of their struggle.

Meanwhile the local official who had signed Tomás' adoption papers more than a decade earlier had told Tomás' uncle where his niece and nephew were. His uncle started sending him letters.

"I now discovered that I was born on 8 August 1977, not on 15 June 1977," he said. He learned where his sister was living and they met in May 1994.

"When I met her I had a terrible shock," he said. "She knew she had a younger brother but I didn't know I had a sister."

Against his foster parent's wishes, he and his sister went back to East Timor in June 1994.

"When I first saw Dili I thought it was a very beautiful place. The first thing I did in the harbour on my arrival was to kneel down three times and kiss the ground of fatherland," he said.

Staying with his uncle, Tomás learned about his country's history from relatives and friends who had witnessed mass killings, rape and torture. Tomás decided to get involved himself.

In 1995 Tomás decided to join the resistance in

ıoved to Jakarta in 1986 to study Philosophy at
suit's University of 'Driyarkara'.

contacted Indonesian human rights organiza-
to tell them about what was happening in East
r.

met with students and Indonesian underground
ments. He came to know the history of
ıesia, how around one million people were mas-
l in 1965 and how that situation of intimidation
error persists.

met with foreign embassy staff, journalists,
ers and anyone who would hear his story about
ıe gross and systematic human rights violations
st Timor.

ıt his activities drew the attention of the
nesian intelligence service. He was constantly
ssed and intimidated. His family suffered in East
ɔr — they were interrogated and intimidated and
tened with imprisonment.

sé organized East Timorese and Indonesian students in Jakarta to protest against the November 12 1991 massacre in Dili. There were about 70 East Timorese students who demonstrated in Jakarta on Nov. 19, 1991.

All the demonstrators — including José — were arrested and jailed for weeks.

José was one of the lucky ones to be released. He was invited to speak to the European Parliament and European human rights organizations about the situation in Indonesia and East Timor.

At great risk to his life, he accepted. Shortly after he left for Europe, two commandos searched his house and confiscated all his belongings. He was refused entry to Indonesia and has not been back since.

He settled in the Hague, the Netherlands and was appointed the National Council of Maubere Resistance (CNRM)'s representative to the European Community.

rto Seixas
da Jerónimo

rto Seixas Miranda Jerónimo was born on e 2, 1955. A nurse, he was active in LIN, one of the pro-independence politi- that were set up as East Timor was gaining nce from Portugal in 1974.

nesia invaded in 1975, Roberto fled to ains like almost all his friends, "because we ntegration that Indonesia wanted to ."

went back to the city of Bacau because he nurse, he could be more helpful to his city.

he was arrested. "I was arrested, interrogat- red with electric shocks to various parts dy for two weeks," he said.

was released, he joined an Indonesian lth team in Bacau to help his people.

realised that my ideas about the role of mil- teams had been totally incorrect," he said. essed torture, rape and executions. East , who were sick or wounded, were interrogat- ured. A method frequently used was elec- and burning with cigarettes on the penis . Some were taken away in helicopters and the sea."

protested, but his commander beat him him he too would be killed.

ary 1982, Indonesian authorities made him a local government official. But the real power, Roberto says, was with the military.

"Being appointed to such a position and then not living up to the expectations of the invaders is particularly risky for East Timorese," he said. "My predecessor, Orlando Marques, was poisoned by the Indonesian soldiers."

Roberto was arrested in 1983 when the Indonesian army retaliated against the East Timorese because the guerrillas had refused to surrender at talks between the Indonesian army and resistance leader, Xanana Gusmao.

"I was interrogated," he said. "They tortured me with electric shocks to various parts of my body, including my penis. They beat me, and pulled out my nails."

Almost a year passed before his family and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) found out where he was and that he was still alive.

A military court tried him without a lawyer and sentenced him to 12 years in jail, along with 42 other East Timorese.

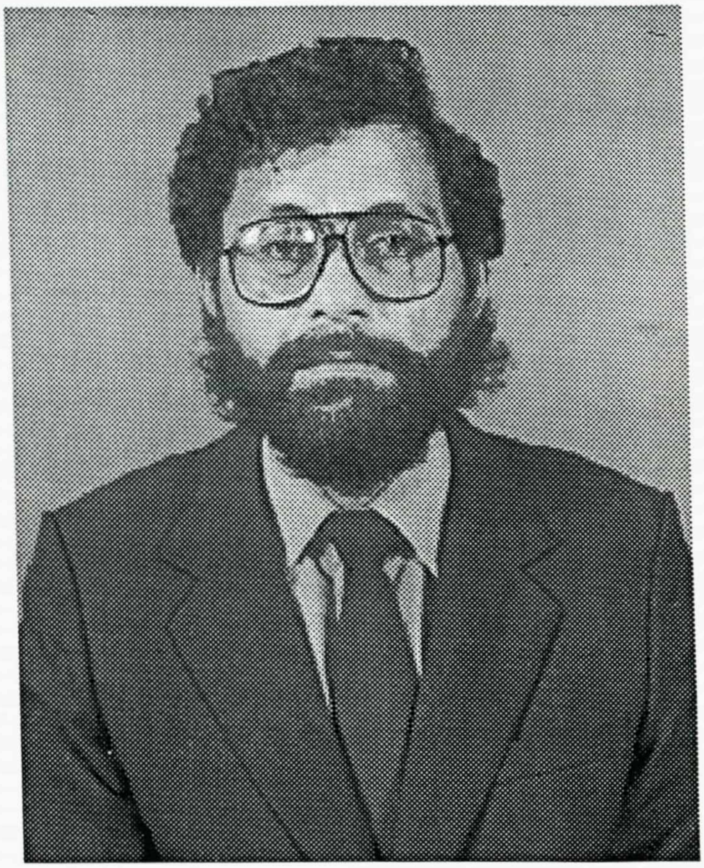
"I was sent to Cipinang Prison in Jakarta where Xanana Gusmão is," he said. "Four of my prison companions died soon after their release, as a result of the ill-treatment they received in prison."

Roberto wants to know why the international community has turned a blind eye to East Timor.

"I realise that we are not the only ones who are victims of military forces or oppressive governments, but are our rights less important that those of, for example, the peoples of Kuwait or Bosnia?" he said.

After he finished his 12 year jail term, Roberto left East Timor in May 1996 with the help of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

He is a member of the Association of Former-Political Timorese Prisoners and lives in Portugal.

> rrested,
> gated
> red
> tric
> s
> parts of
> dy for
> eeks